

Arabiyat urges deputies to attend meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of deputy prime ministers and several cabinet members. At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Arabiyat called on deputies not to absent themselves from the House meetings, noting that the House's last meeting was not held due to lack of quorum. Then an extensive debate took place on the need for deputies to attend the meetings. Some deputies called for placing penalties against those who abstain from the meetings. The House referred a proposal presented by 18 deputies calling for an amendment to a law on putting cabinet ministers on trial to the Legal Committee to study it. It also referred proposals on electricity taxes, land allotted for the general Antiquities Department projects and telephone links in the Russeifa area to the Administrative Committee to study them in conjunction with the concerned authorities. The House also approved the Financial Committee's decision approving an appendix to the 1989 general budget law, two Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) temporary laws and a temporary law on income tax.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Zhelev wins Bulgaria's presidential race

SYRIA — (R) — Pro-Western reformist Zhelyu Zhelev won Bulgaria's first presidential election on Sunday, defeating a socialist-backed candidate, the state news agency BTA said. "Zhelyu Zhelev has an advantage which cannot be overcome," BTA said, citing the projections of four parallel counts of the vote which Bulgarian law forbids it from reporting. But according to an independent tally, Mr. Zhelev defeated rival Velko Valkanov by about 53.3 per cent to 46.6 per cent. The surprisingly slim margin of victory reflects the lingering appeal of communist policies among Bulgaria's 8.5 million people and the blame some attach to Mr. Zhelev, appointed head of state in 1990, for economic hardships. "It's natural for the Bulgarian mentality to hold the head of state responsible for everything, including inflation, unemployment, high prices," said Zhelev aide Zlatko Stoyanov. "All these things produced natural negativism against Zhelev, which explains the slim margin," he told Reuters. The Bulgarian presidency is in fact largely ceremonial, but is nevertheless a highly symbolic post with considerable influence.

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Former mosque rector condemned for role in Algeria

PARIS (AP) — Sheikh Haddam Tedjini, the former rector of the Paris mosque, was barred Sunday from the administrative council of the National Federation of Muslims in France. Sheikh Tedjini, considered a moderate, is one of the five men who seized power following the Jan. 11 resignation of President Chadli Benjedid, and formed the High State Committee. The federation issued a statement saying that Sheikh Tedjini's position in the new government "constitutes a grave attack against the freedom of choice by the Algerian people" and was "incompatible with the democratic calling" of the federation.

Britain's King meets Sultan Qaboos

NICOSIA (R) — British Defence Secretary Tom King met Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman on Sunday and held talks with Oman's senior military officials. The Omani News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Mr. King discussed "bilateral relations and matters of common concern" with Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence Affairs Fahd Ben Talmour Al Said and other senior military officials.

Major: Allies will intervene if Kurds attacked

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Sunday that allied forces based in southern Turkey would intervene if Iraq ordered its troops to attack Kurds living in northern Iraq. Mr. Major, in an interview marking the first anniversary of the Gulf war, said the West's commitment to ensure the safety of thousands of Kurds in the area may have to be kept for some time. "Many of them are very concerned about Saddam Hussein. At the moment he is keeping his distance... because he knows there are allied forces in the area and they would intervene if the Kurds were to be attacked," Mr. Major told TV-AM's "Frost on Sunday" programme. "That is an important impediment to the way in which he behaves and it may be a commitment we may have to keep for some time," he added.

Beilin in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — An Israeli member of parliament arrived in Cairo Sunday for what he called a visit to review economic links with Egypt. Yossi Beilin, a member of the Israeli Knesset's committee for defence and foreign relations and an advisor to Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, told reporters he would meet Egyptian officials and discuss trade links on a two-day visit. A spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Cairo said Mr. Beilin was on a private visit. Non-oil trade links between Egypt and Israel came to only \$11 million last year, excluding oil which Egypt is bound to offer for sale to Israel under the Camp David peace treaty.

Djibouti kills 150 guerrillas said

DJIBOUTI (R) — Government forces killed more than 150 guerrillas in a mopping-up operation, Djibouti radio reported Sunday. The radio said more than 100 rebels were killed in an operation at the village of Kalaf in the northern district of Tadjourah on Saturday. Five government soldiers were killed and 10 injured. About 50 rebels were killed on Friday in the Gage area of the western district of Dikhil after the rebels attacked Dawdaya military post.

Quake shakes southwest Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — An earthquake registering 4.1 on the Richter scale shook an area 127 kilometres southwest of the capital, the Centre for Research in Astrophysics said Sunday. The quake at 1:25 p.m. (1425 GMT) led its epicentre in the region of 'An Delfa and Rozina, the centre said. A second quake registering 3.6 hit the same area about 35 minutes later.

Shamir loses Knesset majority, but hangs on

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir lost his parliamentary majority Sunday in a shouting, argumentative cabinet session, setting the stage for early elections expected to be fought over Israel's stand on Middle East peace.

Mr. Shamir's support in the 120-seat parliament was cut to 59 legislators as the far-right Tehiya and Moledet parties fulfilled pledges to quit the government over their rejection of the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. The opposition Labour Party said it would try to topple the government next week in a parliamentary no-confidence motion. The daily Maariv said parliament was expected to dissolve itself this week and schedule national elections for June 9.

Shamir confidants said Sunday their top priority was to survive the Labour challenge. "Whatever the decision on the date of elections, we want to do it on our terms, and not under the pressure of a no-confidence motion against the government," said Health Minister Ehud Olmert, a member of Mr. Shamir's inner circle.

The fatal blow to Mr. Shamir's coalition came during the weekly cabinet session when cabinet ministers Rehavam Zeevi of Moledet and Yuval Neeman of Tehiya submitted their resigna-

tions, which become effective in 48 hours.

Moledet and Tehiya oppose the limited self-rule that Israel has offered to the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the peace talks, saying autonomy would lead to a Palestinian state.

Both parties want Israel to annex the occupied territories, and Moledet wants to expel all Palestinians living there.

"I hope that our departure will create a government crisis that will stop the autonomy train," Mr. Zeevi wrote in his resignation letter, according to Israeli army radio.

During Sunday's session, Mr. Zeevi shouted at Mr. Olmert, "You are a creep," after being told by the health minister that Moledet's positions on expulsion were immoral, radio reports said.

Mr. Olmert confirmed the confrontation and told Israeli Radio: "I'm not sorry about their (Moledet's) departure, and I pray we will never need them again." But polls show that while Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc would defeat Labour, it would not gain a clear majority. Therefore, Likud would still need the backing of small religious and right-wing extremist factions like Moledet.

Mr. Shamir said last week the political crisis would "almost cer-

tainly" bring early elections. He has ruled out trying to rule until the scheduled November date with a minority government.

Likud and Labour must now reach agreement on a date because a proposal for early elections needs to be approved by parliament.

But Labour spokeswoman Mira Geshel said Likud had not approached Labour to negotiate an election date.

She said the party would press ahead with a motion of no-confidence over the government's handling of the economy. The motion is to be submitted on Monday and to be voted on Jan. 27.

Immediately after the cabinet resignations, Mr. Shamir convened a session of Likud ministers to plan strategy.

Mr. Shamir and Likud ministers have already indicated they intend to run a campaign on the twin planks of a tough approach to dealings with Arabs while simultaneously continuing peace talks.

"There were only two reasons for leaving," Mr. Zeevi told reporters, attacking the government's failure to crush the Palestinian uprising and its willingness to discuss limited Palestinian self-rule.

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Soldier killed, policemen injured in ominous Algerian violence

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A soldier was killed and two policemen injured in an attack early Sunday, the first violence reported since a military-backed committee took control a week ago.

The Algerian gendarmerie said the attack south of the capital followed an overnight bomb attack at its national headquarters in Algiers. The explosion caused no injuries or damage. The gendarmerie blamed the attacks on "armed elements," without elaboration. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The acting leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abdul Kader Hachani, said he was an explosion of violence in the country. "If this junta goes too far... it will be impossible for us to keep the people under control," Mr. Hachani said in an exclusive interview with the Associated Press.

He compared his situation to that of a man holding the pin of a live grenade. "The junta wants death, wants blood in Algeria. They are doing everything so that it explodes. We are doing everything so that it

doesn't," he said.

A statement issued Sunday by the FIS called on people to "oppose the clique in power." But Mr. Hachani repeatedly stressed that his party was doing its best to avoid bloodshed.

He said hundreds of fundamentalists have been arrested, faster than his party can keep count. On Friday, the front said more than 500 people had been arrested during the week. They did not say how many had been arrested or provide any other details.

Mr. Hachani said the arrests were continuing on Sunday. The atmosphere in party headquarters was extremely tense.

The Algerian news agency APS said the killers opened fire on a road checkpoint from a nearby wood and hurled three home-made bombs at the security forces early on Saturday near Sid-Moussa, 50 kilometres south of the capital.

In Algiers on Sunday, another car bomb was thrown at the national headquarters of Algeria's 23,000-strong gendarmerie, the agency said, adding that there

were no casualties.

There were no details on who carried out the attacks.

President Chadli Benjedid resigned eight days ago and was replaced by leaders who the independent newspaper Al Watan newspaper said planned to rule with an iron hand.

Diplomats said Mr. Benjedid was forced out by interim rulers who handed over to a five-man presidency sworn in on Thursday. Headed by Mohammed Boudiaf, the 72-year-old independence war hero who returned from nearly three decades in exile, the new leaders held their first meeting on Saturday.

They emphasised "the need to maintain order and its indispensable reinforcing to assure the safety of the nation..."

Tanks and troops guard key government buildings in Algiers. A tight security cordon was thrown around two mosque areas in the FIS bastions of Bab Al Oued and Kouba for Friday's mass prayers, the first since Mr. Benjedid's resignation.

Fundamentalists leaders have

(Continued on page 5)

Guerrillas blow up houses in Israeli-controlled zone

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Guerrillas blew up two houses in the village of Teir Herfa inside Israel's self-designated "security zone" Sunday, killing the mayor and wounding four people, security sources reported.

The fundamentalist Iranian-backed Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn bombings in a statement released in Beirut about 12 hours after the attack.

The statement said: "Our resistance fighters blew up two houses of collaborators with the Israeli enemy and its lackeys before dawn. This is meant to be a lesson that should not be forgotten."

Hizbollah said Israeli troops and allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) intermittently shelled the nearby villages of Hadatha, Hariss and Eita Al Jebel after the bombings.

The statement made no mention of casualties or damage.

The houses destroyed by the Hizbollah guerrillas belonged to Teir Herfa's mayor, Salim Yousef, and the director of the village's athletics training centre.

The security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

Yousef, 64, was wounded in the bombing and died at the U.N. peacekeeping force's field hospital near the U.N. headquarters in the coastal village of Naqurah. They listed the other casualties as the mayor's wife, the wife of the training centre director and their son and daughter.

Israel established the 1,100-sq-kilometre "security zone" north of the Lebanon-Israel border in 1985 as a buffer against guerrilla attacks.

The zone, which runs from the Mediterranean in the west to the slopes of Mount Hermon, has come under increasing attack by guerrillas in recent weeks while Arab-Israeli peace talks have been underway in Madrid and Washington.

Many residents of Teir Herfa are aligned with the SLA, the 3,000-strong militia which controls the zone, backed by more than 1,000 Israeli troops.

Israeli and SLA forces shelled a string of villages just outside the zone on Saturday, wounding a civilian, security sources said.

A bomb planted by Hizbollah killed two SLA militiamen in the zone on Friday.

'Soviet nuclear expert working for Libyans'

LONDON (AP) — Soviet nuclear scientists have been lured to Libya by salaries over \$100,000 to work on top-secret nuclear research, the Sunday Express reported.

Igor Cherniyev, 46, who previously worked for the Institute of Nuclear Research near Moscow, was quoted by the paper as saying he was working with three other Soviet nuclear scientists in Libya's remote Awbari desert.

Western governments have expressed increasing concern at the potential for the proliferation of nuclear weapons following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Western defence experts estimate there are between 30,000 and 50,000 Soviets with nuclear expertise.

Mr. Cherniyev was quoted as saying he had been working for Libya since September at a salary of \$60,000 (about \$108,000).

Sharif Zeid meets Abed Rabbo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday met with Yasser Abed Rabbo (see photo on right), member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and reviewed with him the peace process and the third round of peace talks held in Washington last week. Also discussed were the multilateral talks which will be held in Moscow on Jan. 28.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Palestinian ambassador in Amman Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.



In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, following the meeting, Mr. Abed Rabbo said he conveyed a message from the Palestinian leadership to the Jordanian government on the latest developments, particularly on the multilateral talks, and the need to enhance coordination between Jordan and PLO on all issues related to the peace process.

He added that the Palestinian leadership had made a review of the latest developments in the peace process, the inter-Arab coordination before and during talks, and evaluated the outcome of the bilateral talks.

He pointed out that the PLO leadership emphasised the need for discussing issues of substance at the forthcoming talks.

Arafat: Arabs to review stand on Moscow talks at Morocco meeting

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Arab states would meet in Morocco next Friday to review their participation in Middle East talks scheduled for Moscow at the end of the month.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted Mr. Arafat on Sunday as telling Tunis-based diplomats that Arab states would discuss the Moscow talks after or during an Arab League session on Jerusalem scheduled for Morocco on Jan. 22.

The PLO chairman did not say at what level Arab states would be represented. But sources close to Mr. Arafat said foreign ministers of the 17 Arab states invited to the Moscow talks would take part.

Syria and Lebanon announced on Saturday that they would not be taking part in the Jan. 28-29 Moscow round, the third stage of the U.S.-Soviet-brokered peace talks, because of what they called Israeli intransigence.

But Egypt, which was instrumental in coaxing a reluctant Syria to talks with Israel, has said it will attend the Moscow round, which is to discuss secondary regional issues such as arms control, water and refugees.

The PLO, which is not formally a party to the talks, has yet to say whether it will authorise the participation of a Palestinian delegation at the Moscow round of the peace process begun in Madrid last Oct. 30.

A member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmoud Abbas, was travelling to Moscow Sunday to seek clarification on the multilateral peace talks, a PLO source said.

It would be the first visit to Moscow by a senior PLO figure since the former Soviet republics. Moscow co-sponsored the Middle East peace talks.

The PLO spokesman said a PLO decision on whether or not to give the green light to Palestinian participation at the Moscow round would depend largely on the outcome of Mr. Abbas' discussions and the meeting in Morocco.

Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to Mr. Arafat, has hinted in recent days that Palestinians would not take part in the Moscow talks if the United States provided \$10 billion of Israeli housing loan guarantees.

Congressional consideration of the Israeli request was postponed until the first quarter of this year.

at the urging of President George Bush last September.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Saturday ruled out his country participating in further peace talks while Israel refused to withdraw from lands it has occupied since the 1967 war.

Mr. Arafat told the diplomats in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, that the PLO should be formally represented at the Moscow talks especially since they would be discussing refugees, Wafa said.

The PLO leader argued that a letter of assurance Washington sent the Palestinians before the talks began said the PLO and Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem would be linked to the final stages of the peace talks, Wafa said.

Israel rules out any discussions with the PLO or with Arabs from East Jerusalem.

"Israel persists in its intransigence and its stubborn rejection of international legitimacy by setting up colonies (in occupied Arab lands) and installing immigrants from all over the world, especially the Soviet Union," Mr. Arafat said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir's man said to have sought to undermine Bush

TEL AVIV (AP) — An opposition lawmaker Sunday accused an Israeli diplomat in Washington of trying to use American Jews to undermine President George Bush to pressure the president to support increased aid to Israel.

Legislator Avraham Burg of the centre left Labour Party told Israeli Radio and a Hebrew daily that the move amounted to interference in American politics.

Mr. Burg said a letter from diplomat Yoram Ettinger, a supporter of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, urges U.S. Jews to lobby Republicans to put pressure on Mr. Bush while his popularity is slipping, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth reported.

"Shamir's men in Washington are planning a rebellion in the Republican Party and to get the Jewish community to revolt against President Bush," the paper quoted Mr. Burg as saying. Mr. Ettinger, a former head of Israel's government press office, was quoted on the radio as denying he urged the Jewish community to clash with Mr. Bush. The foreign ministry refused comment on the matter.

Mr. Burg's accusations revolve around Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help absorb 350,000 Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Last September, Mr. Bush asked Congress to delay considering the request for 120 days as a way to get Israel to join Middle East peace talks. The request is about to be taken up when Mr. Bush is reportedly angry over Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

A letter that Mr. Burg said was written by Mr. Ettinger and sent to Israeli diplomats throughout the United States was quoted in Yedioth.

It urged American Jewish communities to use the "significant

(Continued on page 5)

Jalloud visits Beijing on eve of U.N. vote

BEIJING (Agencies) — A top Libyan official arrived Sunday in Beijing for an official visit at the invitation of the Chinese government, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The Xinhua report gave no other details about the visit by Abdul Salam Jalloud, the second-ranked official in Libya behind Muammar Qadhafi.

Majior Jalloud appeared to be seeking Chinese support to counter allegations by the United States, Britain and France that Libya was involved in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland in 1988 and a French plane over Niger in 1989. A total of 440 people died in the two bombings.

The Libyan government has denied any involvement in the Pan Am bombing.

U.S. and British authorities have charged two suspected Libyan intelligence agents in the bombing of the Pan Am flight. France has charged four high-ranking Libyans, including Colonel Qadhafi's brother-in-law and a deputy foreign minister, with plotting the bombing of the UTA flight over Niger.

Libya has refused to extradite the suspects, saying they could not get a fair trial in the West. It invited Western judges to come to Libya for the trials, but the offer was rejected.

The United States, Britain and France, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, have been lobbying other members of the world body to come out against Libya. But so far no formal action has been taken to impose sanctions.

Red Cross delivers relief supplies to Somali refugees

NAIROBI (AP) — The Red Cross Sunday began distributing emergency food to hundreds of thousands of starving refugees from Somalia's war-shattered capital.

The food was transported to the capital aboard dhows from ships anchored off Adali, 150 kilometres north of the capital, and Merca, 120 kilometres south of Mogadishu. The ports at the towns were too small for the ships to dock, Mr. Tavernier said.

If the operation is successful, Mr. Tavernier said the Red Cross would try to ship in fresh supplies. In late November and December, the humanitarian agency tried to ship supplies directly to Mogadishu, but the ships were repeatedly forced out of the city harbour by artillery fire.

The once-beautiful coastal capital of low, white-washed buildings has been mostly reduced to rubble in the warfare. The United Nations estimated 20,000 people, mostly civilians caught in the fighting, have been killed and wounded in the two-month battle between the clans.

General Mohammad Farrah Aided, head of the ruling United Somali Congress (USC).

The USC seized the capital a year ago after ousted President Mohammad Siad Barre fled a month of fighting.

The ships arrived Saturday and anchored off Adali, 150 kilometres north of the capital, and Merca, 120 kilometres south of Mogadishu. The ports at the towns were too small for the ships to dock, Mr. Tavernier said.

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The refugees are among the hundreds of thousands of people who have fled Mogadishu since clan-based warfare broke out there on Nov. 17 between President Ali Mahdi Mohammad and

OBITUARY

Mohammad Samara Office for Trading and Agencies, agents of the Turkish Duru soap, and all the office staff mourn the death of Turkish businessman

MEHMET RIFAT EVYAP

the founder of Evyap Soap Factory who passed away Sunday Jan. 19, 1992 morning in Istanbul aged 90 years marked by charity and piety. May God bless his soul

Saudis said pressing U.S. to oust Saddam

NEW YORK (AP) — Saudi Arabia is pressuring the Bush administration to secretly arm and give intelligence to Iraqi opposition forces so they can work to overthrow Saddam Hussein, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Another major allied air campaign against Iraq — and possibly sending American ground troops back into the region — would be required to topple President Saddam, the New York Times said.

The Saudis want the United States to give arms and intelligence to Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, Shiite Muslim fighters in the south and Sunni Muslim opposition forces in central Iraq, the Times said, quoting U.S. and allied officials it did not name.

The goal would be for the opposition to draw out and divide Iraq's remaining Republican Guards, the highly trained units protecting Baghdad, then subject them to allied air attacks, the newspaper reported.

Iraq's air force has been grounded since the end of the Gulf war, and military officials believe that destroying Iraq's remaining tank divisions and helicopter fleet would lead to its final defeat, the Times said.

"There has to be a combination of a major covert operation and a major air operation and then leave the rest to the Iraqi people," a senior allied official who has been discussing the proposal with Bush aides was quoted as saying.

The Times said that some of the sources who reported on the Saudi-backed plan did so in the hope that the report would instill confidence in the Iraqi opposition; others hoped that public knowledge of the proposals would spur an outcry or a congressional response.

President Saddam's ability to stay in power despite Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war threatens to become a political liability for President George Bush as he seeks reelection this year.

The anti-Saddam planning in the United States is being coordinated by officials from the Defense and State departments, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Council, the Times said.

Senior American and Saudi officials reportedly have discussed military and covert operation actions over the past 10 days, but it was not clear whether Britain and France had been consulted.

On Thursday, the first anniversary of the Gulf war's start, Mr. Bush praised "the efforts of thousands of brave Iraqis who are resisting Saddam's rule." An administration official told the Times that Mr. Bush's statement was part of a deliberate American effort to nurture and develop Iraqi resistance.

The officials who spoke to the Times said no decisions on covert action have been made and no list of options had been presented to Bush.

Kennedy's report

Nearly one million Kurdish refugees remain in danger in Iraq a year after the Gulf war, according to a report released on Saturday by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy.

It urged the United States to work more actively with Iraqi opposition groups, including Shiite leaders, to bring democratic government to Iraq and called on other nations to increase efforts to enforce sanctions against Baghdad.

"At least 900,000 Kurdish men, women and children remain at risk of violence and serious deprivation and are likely to remain so until Saddam Hussein is

no longer in power and political stability is established in Iraq," the report by Mr. Kennedy's Immigration and Refugee Affairs Sub-committee said.

Up to two million Kurds fled to northern Iraq, Iran and Turkey after their post-war revolt last year failed. U.S. and other allied military forces went into the region to protect and help the refugees and 1,750 allied troops remain in southern Turkey.

"One year after the Gulf war, the tragic human consequences of the conflict continue," Mr. Kennedy said in a statement. "International efforts to assist the Kurds have made important gains, but the suffering continues for hundreds of thousands of Kurds living under the threat of Saddam Hussein's brutality."

"Iraq's human tragedy goes on, and the United States and its allies must remain committed to the security and well-being of the Kurds," he added.

The report said recent harassment by the government in areas outside the allied security zone has caused 300,000 Kurds to flee their homes since last October. It said the government had placed an economic blockade against Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

Two sub-committee staff members visited northern Iraq in December and talked with refugees and Kurdish leaders.

"The current allied security zone in northern Iraq should be expanded to include all areas currently under Kurdish control," the report recommended.

Kurdish leaders this week suspended autonomy talks with Baghdad and said they would hold an election by April 3 to choose a leader and members of a Kurdish national assembly.

Opposition call

An Iraqi Shiite opposition leader Sunday called on the United States to actively back groups trying to overthrow President Saddam.

"We urge the United States to adopt a decisive decision to help end Saddam's regime," Ayatollah Taji Al Mudarresi told Reuters in Damascus.

"This would stop the deterioration in the living conditions of the Iraqi people who have been suffering because of Saddam's foolish actions," he declared.

Ayatollah Mudarresi, the spiritual head of several Shiite opposition groups, said he would like to see Washington allow Iraq's neighbors to supply Iraqi rebel groups with arms.

A Mudarresi aide said he was referring specifically to Iran.

Iraq accused Iran of aiding the Shiite unrest in southern Iraq, which like that in the Kurdish north, was put down.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater stressed that only the Iraqi people could change their own leadership and indicated the United States intended to rely on political, economic moral pressure to help them.

Iraqi opposition leaders, including Ayatollah Mudarresi, are meeting in Damascus to discuss holding a general opposition conference, possibly in rebel-held northern Iraq.

His appeal for U.S. backing follows one made by a committee representing 27 North-American based Iraqi opposition groups in Washington on Friday.

"What does the Iraqi opposition need from the U.S. government? It needs political — not military — support that will create a positive environment in which the Iraqi opposition can work to remove Saddam," said committee chairman Abbas Mehdi.

Saddam tells Children to conserve because of siege

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told a group of children Saturday that they must be frugal in the face of U.N. economic sanctions, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

President Saddam told the children one dress is enough for girls and they should not ask for meat if they have "rice and okra," the agency said. It said the president urged the children to help keep their parents from spending too much as well.

The agency said President Saddam received the children "on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Gulf war," apparently at a presidential mansion.

He told them that the United States "has been formed by outlaws and people who were looking for wealth," INA reported.

President Saddam said Western leaders had promised to lift the sanctions if Iraq withdrew from Kuwait.

"I want to show you what liars they are. Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait. However, the blockade continues," President Saddam told the children.

The president asked the children not to buy "things you do not need. If a girl has one dress, it is enough."

"Let the army be an example

for you. It dresses in one colour, which is khaki. I want you to remain like that until the blockade is lifted."

"Whoever has got enough food should not ask for more, and whoever has got rice and okra should not ask for kebabs. This is lavish," he said.

"If your parents cook more than what you need," the president told the children they should tell them "this is too much and that we are in a blockade. And if they wanted to buy a third or a fourth dress, you should tell them that this is lavish because we can't carry on dressing as if we did not have a blockade."

Conditions have worsened for ordinary Iraqis because of shortages and high prices due to the U.N. embargo.

Food and medicine are allowed under the sanctions, and Iraqis are supplied through a food distribution and rationing network established during the war.

Many goods are smuggled through Iraq's porous borders. Still, inflation is rampant and the jobless rate high. Placing common goods out of reach for many people.

President George Bush and other Western leaders have said they will make sure the Security Council maintains the sanctions until President Saddam is ousted.

Shamir — hardliner and 'peace candidate'

TEL AVIV (R) — It's a remarkable role even in Israel's theatrical politics. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, former underground terrorist leader and still unyielding nationalist, is poised to win reelection as the peace candidate.

With far-right parties quitting their coalition government on Sunday to stop peace talks and the leftist Labour Party divided, Mr. Shamir has assumed the unlikely mantle of a middle-of-the-road candidate.

An election was due next November, but an early vote became almost inevitable after the Tehiya and Mofedet parties quit. With his majority in parliament gone, a June election is now the most likely date.

"The fact is that until today no one can say that in the past years there was a government stronger than this government for preserving the land of Israel," Mr. Shamir said for his traditional right-wing backers.

"On the other hand, in parallel, there was not a government like this, which achieved a peace process, is carrying it on and will continue to," he immediately added for other voters.

That message, given in each interview and echoed by cabinet ministers, sets the tone for an election expected to leave Israel more solidly in the hold of Mr. Shamir's Likud and further right parties than ever before.

By many measures Mr. Shamir should be in trouble. Israel's foreign prestige has sunk during her four-year Palestinian revolt, it is feuding with its guardian ally the United States and the economy is weak.

But in the fragmented politics of Israel, he looks positioned to win easily. And the next Israeli government could look very similar to the last one.

Despite the resignation of far-right parties that fear his joining peace talks will lead

to Israel returning occupied Arab land, Mr. Shamir's nationalist credentials are impeccable.

The man who helped run the Stern gang, the most extreme of the terror groups fighting Britain, gives no sign of mellowing with age.

Mr. Shamir, now 76, rejects any Israeli withdrawal and rejects Palestinian independence. He refused to back the 1976 Camp David peace accords with Egypt because they returned the Sinai.

On the left, Mr. Shamir faces marginal parties and the Labour Party, which ruled the country through its first three decades but has been torn by internal divisions.

Labour position often appears ambiguous and it has adopted a low profile despite being the main opposition party since leaving Mr. Shamir's previous coalition two years ago.

It has not been helped by the spectacle of the last two Labour prime ministers, current leader Shimon Perez and former leader Yitzhak Rabin, openly vying for control of the party.

Now Mr. Shamir has seized on Middle East peace talks to portray himself as the man who can at last end the Arab-Israeli conflict — a role the more dovish Labour wanted to assume.

Mr. Shamir, who torpedoed U.S. efforts to start peace talks two years ago, is evoking the memory of Menachem Begin, the hard-line leader who made peace with Egypt.

By continuing the peace talks, which so far have made little progress, Mr. Shamir will not only reinforce his peace image during the campaign but will placate the United States.

Washington, which had to push Mr. Shamir into the current talks, is about to decide on Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to pay for immigration.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti team to visit ex-Soviet republics

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said on Sunday it was sending a high-ranking delegation to former Soviet republics and China to discuss possible economic assistance to them, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. It quoted Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Sabah as saying the delegation of oil, trade, economic and health officials would be led by Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodham. "The emir, (Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah), has ordered a study on the possibility of extending economic and trade assistance to the peoples of the former Soviet Union and China," he said. KUNA said Sheikh Salem was speaking before leaving for Washington to attend a U.S.-sponsored conference on coordinating aid to the former Soviet Union starting on Wednesday. Up to 60 foreign ministers and heads of international finance organizations are expected to attend the two-day meeting aimed at helping the peoples of the former Soviet Union get through the winter and planning an aid effort for the future. Saudi officials said last week that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab allies had decided to channel the bulk of their aid to the predominantly Muslim republics of the Central Asia. Saudi Arabia pledged \$1.5 billion to the Soviet Union last year, partly to reward it for support during the Gulf war against Iraq. Other Gulf Arab nations pledged a further \$1.5 billion with the bulk coming from Kuwait.

Nearly one million attend gathering

DHAKA (R) — About one million Muslims from Bangladesh and overseas are attending this year's Biswa Ijtima (World Congregation), the world's biggest Islamic gathering after the pilgrimage to Mecca, organisers said on Sunday. Devotees from 62 countries have gathered on the banks of the Turag River 18 kilometers from Dhaka for the annual three-day prayer-and-discussions session. The government has set up camps and provided water, sanitation and clinics for those attending. Women are not allowed to join the Ijtima, which began on Saturday, but can listen to recitations from the Koran over loudspeakers. The government has run special trains for worshippers. "The traffic has become really suffocating with hundreds of buses, trucks and other vehicles pouring in every minute," one police officer said. Organisers said the number of Muslims attending this year's event, which has been held on the riverside for at least half a century, was 200,000 more than last year. It will end on Monday.

Chad's prime minister visits Libya

NICOSIA (R) — Chad's prime minister, Jean Alingue Bowyeu, arrived in Libya Saturday, the Libyan news agency JANA reported. It quoted Mr. Bowyeu as saying the visit was "in the framework of exchanging delegations between the brothers in the Jamahiriya (Libya) and Chad." The agency, received in Cyprus, said the Chadian official was accompanied by his ministers of foreign affairs and tourism and the interior minister's deputy. It gave no other details.

Morocco attacks EC Parliament decision

RABAT (R) — Morocco on Saturday attacked a European Parliament decision to block aid to the kingdom as an affront to the dignity of the Moroccan people. The parliament on Wednesday blocked \$600 million worth of development aid for Morocco and attacked its record in human rights and the disputed Western Sahara. "That is inadmissible and unacceptable," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdilatif Filali told reporters. "It is an affront to the dignity and the territorial unity of the Moroccan people." European deputies said that many political prisoners were still being held in Morocco, that many people had been reported missing and that government pressure had led to postponement of a referendum on the future of Western Sahara. Mr. Filali accused the parliament of ignorance and said a six-member delegation of European parliamentarians led by Claude Cheysson of France had visited last month and had expressed satisfaction with human rights in the kingdom.

Mauritanian women march for opposition

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — About 20,000 women marched through the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott Saturday to back the main opposition candidate in next week's presidential elections, eyewitnesses said. Dressed in white, the symbolic colour of candidate Ahmad Ould Daddah, they carried banners supporting freedom for women within Islam and urging all communities in the ethnically-divided country to vote for the former political exile. Mr. Daddah, brother of Mauritania's first leader Mokhtar Ould Daddah, is opposing military President Maouya Ould Sidahmed Taya in the West African country's first presidential polls since independence from France in 1960. The first round of voting is due next Friday with a possible second round two weeks later.

Kuwait urges U.N. to force PoWs release

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's crown prince Sunday called on the United Nations to force Iraq to release hundreds of missing Kuwaitis believed to be still imprisoned there. "I appeal to the United Nations... to multiply its endeavours to take all possible means to force the Iraqi regime to release all prisoners of war and hostages detained in Iraq," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told an Islamic symposium on the issue. Kuwait officials say more than 2,000 people seized by Iraqi forces are still unaccounted for. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says some may have died but hundreds of others could still be detained. It has no way of checking because its representatives are not allowed to visit places of detention inside Iraq. Sheikh Saad told diplomats and officials attending the opening of the three-day symposium that Kuwait would never forget crimes perpetrated against its people or the role of nations who sympathised with Iraq. Around 400 prominent Islamic figures from throughout the world are attending the event, roughly timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Gulf war one year ago.

'Iran paid for hostage upkeep, then for release'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran only financed the imprisonment of American hostages in Lebanon, but eventually paid the kidnappers \$1 million to \$2 million for each hostage released, according to unnamed U.S. officials quoted in a report published Sunday.

The Washington Post said government officials interviewed since the release last month of Terry Anderson, the last U.S. hostage held, said that nearly all of the key negotiations regarding the hostages took place in Iran rather than Lebanon.

The paper quoted the U.S. sources as also saying that first word of impending hostages releases came from the Iranian Foreign Ministry through diplomatic channels several days in advance of each of the recent releases.

The Post quoted the officials as saying U.S. intelligence traced to official Iranian sources regular money payments to the groups holding the Americans and quoted one of them as describing the \$1 million to \$2 million paid in connection with each release as a "per capita" award for each release.

"The road to the hostages ran through Tehran," the Post quoted one U.S. official as saying.

Asked why Iran had to pay for the captors' releases if it was already in control of the situation, the paper quoted one of its sources as saying the Iranians "want to keep these people happy, quiet and on their side. They have long-term investments in Lebanon. They are there for the long haul."

In the end, the sources said, Iranian officials decided that the continued captivity of the hostages was a serious detriment to their efforts to win economic access to the West and that the hostages had become more of a burden than an asset to the fundamentalist groups in Lebanon who seized them.

The Post quoted at least three sources on varying degrees of Iranian involvement.

"Iran had a substantial amount of authority in almost all cases," said one.

"We used to spend endless hours debating here the degree of Iranian control," said another. "The evidence now is that control was 99.9 per cent."

A third said Iran had "about as much control as you do over your 16-year-old son." By that, the paper explained that the source was saying there was some control but that the question in such cases is "how much pressure, are you willing to bring to the table" to exercise it.

The paper quoted Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, as calling "baseless" reports that Iran had control over the Americans and other Western hostages in Lebanon.

"Those who have such imaginations don't understand Lebanon, the Lebanese people and these groups," Mr. Kharrazi was quoted as saying. Any control was "spiritual influence" exercised through "different channels of communication," he said, and to his knowledge, money was not a factor in either the seizure of the hostages or their release.

Chevenement believes he was right about Gulf war

PARIS (R) — When Jean-Pierre Chevenement quit as France's defence minister during the Gulf war, he was accused of disrupting the fight to eject Iraq from Kuwait.

Now, one year on, he believes his view that the war was a waste of time has been vindicated. "For me it was always a war we should have avoided, a useless war," Mr. Chevenement told reporters this week on the publication of a book explaining why he resigned.

"It revived fundamentalism throughout the Arab and Muslim world, put Iran back on the map and destroyed Iraq. It reopened the Kurdish problem — there is no solution in sight."

"Syria has swallowed Lebanon without so much as a squeak from the international community. Democracy has not been reestablished in Kuwait, this war merely served to reinforce the hegemony of the United States."

Mr. Chevenement resigned on Jan. 29, when the air war against Iraq was in full swing and France had 12,000 troops poised to join the ground offensive that began one month later to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

At the time, 80 per cent of the French supported the war. But Mr. Chevenement, a maverick on the left of the ruling Socialist Party, believed the United States had dragged France into the conflict.

His book accused U.S. President George Bush of abusing United Nations resolutions to follow his own agenda.

"The extent of the destruction visited upon Iraq — bridges, water treatment plants, electricity

generators, factories and public buildings — seemed to have nothing to do with the use of 'necessary means' to liberate Kuwait," he writes.

Mr. Chevenement argues Sir Bush's much-cherished "new world order" really meant U.S. political dominance.

He says Mr. Bush had set his heart on war within days of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 because it suited his vision of a post-cold war world left by a strong United States.

"The lesson of the Gulf war is simple: Developed nations no longer need the Third World. They only need its oil. And Third World countries had better remember that," he says.

Mr. Chevenement's aggressive anti-Americanism goes hand in hand with strong sympathies for the Arab World.

For him, Europe is too close to the Middle East to treat its leaders like the "cartoon villains" often portrayed in allied ranks. Mr. Chevenement feels France effectively turned its back on its friends in the Middle East by joining the war effort.

Mr. Chevenement's stance and combative style have won him few friends in mainstream French political circles since his resignation threw him into the political wilderness.

But he is clearly a survivor — he bounced back after quitting as junior industry minister in 1989. In the last year he has fought his way back into the National Assembly via a by-election and become a spokesman for his party's disillusioned left wing at odds with the government's wild embrace of market capitalism.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME 19

18:00 Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:20 News in Hebrew
19:30 News in Arabic
19:40 Hey Dad
20:00 Capital City
20:10 News in English
22:20 The Elite

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:47 Dhuhr
14:38 'Asr
17:42 Maghrib
18:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624950
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teranista Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

625411
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assman International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cloudy and rainy and a drop in temperatures is expected. Winds will be southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible rain showers, and winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 4/18
Aqaba 6/18
Dera' 3/11
Jordan Valley 9/14

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Mohammad Abu Zeid 675480
Dr. Adnan Mansour 898364
Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 718336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 622672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoun pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Omar Tahatani (—)
Al Starra pharmacy 27825
ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Sharabati (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63521
Hotel Complaints 635800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 661176
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010220
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khaldi Maternity J. Amn 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity J. Amn 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malhus J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 664714
Shamsat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaher Hospital 6672719
The Islamic Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 7770103
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marja 8916175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Sanaa (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Montreal New York (RJ)
07:30 Istanbul (RJ)
08:00 London (RJ)
08:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
09:00 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Yerevan (RJ)
10:00 Moscow (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30 Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple (red) 700/700
Apple (yellow) 500/500
Banana 300/400
Banana (Malaysian) 550/500
Beans 550/500
Cabbage 170/120
Carrot 220/160
Cauliflower 300/250
Cucumbers (large) 250/200
Cucumbers (small) 200/150
Eggplant 200/150
Garlic 500/500
Grapefruit 180/120
Lemon 180/120
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 250/200
Onion (dry) 180/120
Onion (green) 180/120
Orange 400/300
Pepper (hot) 400/300
Pepper (sweet) 400/300
Potato 340/300
Russet 120/80
Sage 200/150
Spinach 400/300
Tomato 400/300

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30

Civil Service Board discusses administrative reform options

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Board Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi during which it discussed a report by a four-member sub-committee on administrative reform.

The committee, which was formed recently to follow up on the guidelines and suggestions made by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in an address last Sunday to the Cabinet, recommended a three-dimensional course to achieve administrative reform.

The course covers administrative legislation and regulation, government departments and employees and the community itself, including the values, habits and social relationships prevailing in it as well as the expectations of media and citizens of public servants.

The report suggested a national department and community level administrative development process. It also suggested three areas of activities stretching from the department level to the national level.

At the national level, the report suggested the restructuring of the public administration and setting up a monitoring system and an administrative inspection unit as well as upgrading the work of the Financial Audit Department.

The second area includes administrative development activities such as the preparation of job descriptions, upgrading the efficiency of state employees through sending them on scholarships,

preparation of budgets and development plans.

The third area includes development activities at the departmental level. This entails a full review of the internal organisation of the department concerned, methods of work and facilitating the procedures.

The sub-committee defined the following priorities for future administrative development:

Creating and developing an integrated national information system, setting up an independent body to update and develop legislation, providing a mechanism of work for the various government departments, developing local administration, facilitation of procedures, developing an incentive system in order to encourage novelty and creativity, improving the performance of the environment and public health cadres, improving the performance of the personnel involved in investments and promotion of exports, improving the performance of cadres involved in addressing poverty and unemployment problems, setting up an independent body to be responsible for administrative inspection and monitoring the performance and conduct of employees, suggesting mechanisms defining the role of administrative leadership in administrative reform and development, suggesting a mechanism for ensuring public participation and involvement in the administrative development effort, developing and upgrading the capabilities of government employees and developing the financial audit system.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (left) Sunday received Syrian Minister of Housing Mohammad Anstabi (centre). Also present was Saad Hayel Surour, minister of public works and housing.

Sharif Zeid stresses importance of Jordanian-Syrian cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday underlined the importance of pursuing coordination efforts between Jordan and Syria with a view to further bolstering relations between them.

The prime minister called on the two countries to benefit from expertise available to either side in the course of their efforts to attain integration.

Sharif Zeid was speaking at a meeting with visiting Syrian Minister of Housing Mohammad Anstabi in the presence of his Jordanian counterpart, Saad Hayel Surour.

The Jordanian and Syrian ministers briefed Sharif Zeid on the outcome talks conducted by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Public Works and Housing Committee.

The committee, which is co-chaired by Mr. Anstabi and Mr. Surour, held a second meeting earlier Sunday to review scopes of cooperation in public works, contracting, roads and housing

schemes.

Agreement was reached on holding a workshop in the first half of 1992 to discuss means of developing services for residential districts as well as the question of axial weights on the roads. They also agreed to hold a workshop in the second half of 1992 to deal with low-cost housing schemes.

Furthermore, the two sides agreed that senior officials from both sides will meet in the coming month at the common border to discuss procedures for the opening of the new highway linking Amman with Damascus through the new border posts of Jaber and Naseeb.

A statement following the meeting said that the two sides, which concluded their discussions at Sunday's meeting, agreed on exchanging information, expertise and studies on road designs, development of residential districts, setting up housing projects,

unifying regulations and laws on public works and housing. They also agreed to coordinate stands at international conferences discussing public works and housing matters.

Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyasat briefed the two ministers on housing projects carried out by his department in Jordan mainly for the benefit of low-income groups.

Following the final meeting, Mr. Surour accompanied the Syrian minister and his delegation on a visit to the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, were briefed by its director, Oqlah Duheimat, on the centre's functions and the preparation of maps.

The visitors watched a documentary film on the map making process and toured parts of the centre, inspecting the computer unit, the remote sensing techniques used in the making maps and a unit for analysing satellite photos.

Disgruntled engineers lash out at Ministry of Public Works

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 200 engineers who were undergoing training in their own specialisations with the Ministry of Public Works are complaining because they have not been offered permanent jobs.

A number of these engineers, claiming to represent the group, told this reporter that the ministry was giving preference in employment to engineers who had not received training with ministry departments or other government-run agencies. They said the group was facing the prospect of becoming jobless in two months.

The Ministry of Public Works, in cooperation with other government departments, had taken the 200 engineers for a training period that began last May for a

bonus of JD 100 a month each.

The Ministry of Public Works had offered training to the engineers in cooperation with the Housing Corporation, the Natural Resources Authority, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Education and others. But none of these trained engineers, the group said, has been given permanent jobs or promised one after the training period has ended.

The group said that the 200 engineers trained with the government agencies should be given priority in employment over others who have not been trained. The group said they had gained a great deal of experience through this training programme, enabling them to handle full time jobs.

Jordan Engineers Association

President Ismail Brewish praised the Ministry of Public Works' efforts but he also urged it to help find jobs for the trained engineers.

Director of the Ministry of Public Works Administration Division Faisal Attieh said that the one-year training period for engineers was an opportunity for the new graduates to gain experience, but the ministry had not promised any of them a permanent job. The group members realise this fact, he said.

But Mr. Attieh said he hoped that the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which processes applications for work in government offices and departments, will examine the engineers' case with a view to giving them priority over other applicants in view of the fact that they have already acquired training.

More rain expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology announced Sunday that more rain was expected today due to the effect of a low depression which was affecting the eastern Mediterranean.

Department Director Ali Abanda said that a strong cold wind from eastern Europe and Russia will be blowing, causing a drop in the temperatures.

He noted that the rain will taper off Tuesday but the country will continue to be affected Tuesday and Wednesday by a mild depression which would be centered south of Italy.

Department officials said that the Tuesday depression would be of little activity and poor effect on Jordan while the depression affecting the Kingdom today would bring temperatures down to a maximum of 6 Celsius.

According to Dr. Abanda, a total of 11 depressions have so far affected Jordan since late November 1991, bringing heavy rain and snow, at a time when central Europe has been affected by a high depression with somewhat warm temperatures. He said that following the coming depression, Jordan can look forward to fewer cold air masses and warmer temperatures.

Electricity restored to south, official reports

MAAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has restored electric power to all of Maan Governorate subscribers who were disconnected from the national electric power grid as a result of the recent snowstorm which affected Jordan, according to Maan Electricity Department Director Yassin Khasawneh.

Mr. Khasawneh said damages to electric installations and equipment were concentrated in the areas of the southern Taybeh and Al Rajeb in Wadi Musa District

and al Jubeir and Hawwaleh in Al Shobak District.

Damages were inflicted by the storm on 10 kilometres of medium voltage poles in the mentioned areas, Mr. Khasawneh said.

"They were repaired at a total cost of JD 130,000," he added. A total of 160 low voltage poles were damaged by the storm, and were repaired at about JD 60,000 he said. He added that some damage was incurred on cables and wires.

Tender Announcement Tender No. 3/92 - Lubricating Oils

Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co. invites contractors to participate in tender No. 3/92 for the supply of lubricating oils as per specifications and quantities attached with terms of tender. Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein — behind Ministry of Health — opposite Al Fadel Ibn Abbas Mosque — Amman tel. 661134 for a non-refundable fee JD (30.-) thirty Jordan Dinars only per a copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents. Offers should be submitted not later than 1:30 p.m. (local Jordan time) on Thursday, February, 20th, 1992.

Chairman/General Manager
Hisham Asfour

Returnees swell school enrolment by 42,500 as of May, study finds

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of returnee students who enrolled in schools and other educational institutions in Jordan totalled 42,500 as of the end of May 1991, according to a study on social and economic characteristics of Jordanians returning from Kuwait and other countries in the Gulf.

The study, carried out by Dr. Victor Billeh from the National Centre for Educational Research and Development and Dr. Hussein Shakhateh from the Planning Ministry, found out 44 per cent of these students belong to the 6-11 year old age group while 25 per cent belong to the 12-14 year age group.

The study also found that the enrolment rate in the general education stage among returning

students was very high. The study said that 55 per cent of the students enrolled in educational institutions in Amman Governorate, 27 per cent in Zarqa Governorate and 13 per cent in Irbid Governorate.

However, the study found that 80 per cent of these students enrolled in government schools.

On the demographic aspects, the study found 44 per cent of the returnees were aged 15 years and below and that 55 per cent of them are in the age group 15-59.

On the marital status of the returnees, the study found that 71 per cent of the returnees excluding students, were married while 26 per cent singles. Two per cent were either divorced or widowed.

On the academic qualifications of the returnees, the study found

that 44 per cent of them do not carry the General Secondary Certificate. Twenty eight per cent carry this certificate while 11 per cent carry the first university degree and 2.5 per cent are in possession of a higher education diploma, masters degree or doctorate degree, the study found.

The study pointed out that 35 per cent of the total returnees are now jobless while 11 per cent have entered the labour market. Of the jobless, 31 per cent used to work in the production and transport sectors, while 17 worked in technical work and 15 per cent occupied clerical jobs.

The study concluded that 42 per cent of the jobless wish to work in Jordan while 6 per cent of them wish to work abroad.

DEF to launch programme to help unemployed professionals

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Development and Employment Fund (DEF), which was established in 1990 to deal with unemployment and help job seekers, is launching a campaign to help engineers, doctors, dentists and other university graduate professionals to earn a living through self reliance.

DEF Director General Abdul Ilah Abu Ayash told the Jordan Times that his department was trying to carry out the campaign with the help of professional associations in the Kingdom whose duty would be to steer the jobless engineers and dentists or doctors towards areas where they can establish their own business with funds from the DEF.

He said that the DEF offers JD 6,000 with a 6 per cent interest rate to job seekers

wishing to establish clinics or offices for business outside Amman.

For instance, Dr. Abu Ayash said, in the Gardens Street of Amman there is a great number of dentists while the little town of Mahes a few kilometres outside Amman has no dentists at all.

Dr. Abu Ayash noted that Saturday a group of 200 dentists registered as a new members to associations and if they do not heed the advice provided jointly by their association and the DEF, they would end up jobless.

This is a promotion campaign which is designed to help the associations extend a helping hand to job seekers, but the DEF is providing the funds and helping in the initial stages of the various projects, Dr. Abu Ayash said.

Dr. Abu Ayash said that the DEF was willing to offer such

assistance to mechanical, electrical, civil, agricultural and other engineers as well as veterinarians, dentists, pharmacists, geologists and doctors in a bid to help the country deal with the chronic question of unemployment among university graduates.

In addition, the DEF is joining forces with the Special Handicraft Fund to provide technical services to those starting businesses on their own especially outside the capital.

According to the DEF charter, the fund was created to support pioneering income and employment generating projects, provide soft loans to individuals among needy groups, provide grants and interest free loans to community projects and give support services like training and consultancy for the beneficiaries of the DEF projects.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (centre) Sunday talks with Libyan Minister of Higher Education Ibrahim Abu Khuzam (right) as Abdullah Zassour, minister of industry and trade, looks on (Petra photo).

Prime minister briefed on Jordanian-Libyan talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The outcome of talks between Jordanian and Libyan government ministers on means of promoting Libyan-Jordanian trade, economic, technical and cultural cooperation was conveyed Sunday to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry.

Sharif Zeid was briefed by Libyan Minister of Higher Education Ibrahim Abu Khuzam on the progress of the discussions by the joint Jordanian-Libyan committee and the subcommittees. Discussion at the meeting also centered on prospects of increasing trade and opening Libyan markets for Jordanian national products, which could also be marketed in other African states.

Sharif Zeid stressed the importance for both sides to pursue the course of close cooperation and for reaching a practical formula that can speed up the pro-

cess of trade exchanges benefiting the people of the two countries.

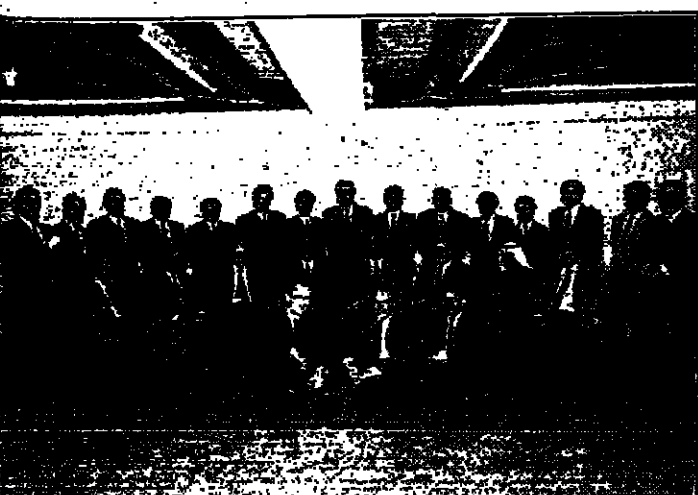
Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb received Dr. Abu Khuzam Sunday and discussed with him scopes of cooperation in electricity generation and exchange of expertise and specialists in power-related fields.

Dr. Abu Khuzam also had a meeting with Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf to discuss trade and economic relations as well as topics related to Jordan's helping Libya in the field of supply. The two sides discussed prospects for increasing the volume of trade with particular attention to olive oil, which Jordan would be importing for the

benefit of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation centres.

At the same time, subcommittees set up by the Libyan and Jordanian ministers Sunday continued their discussions, reviewing drafts of four agreements, which the two countries would be signing at the conclusion of the Libyan delegation's five-day visit to Jordan.

Dr. Abu Khuzam, accompanied by his delegation, called at the Sahab Industrial City to inspect the various industries. Dr. Fayez Suheimat, director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, briefed the visitors on the types of industries and incentives offered to the investors in industrial projects.



GALLAHUE DISTRIBUTORS MEET — Gallahue International, makers of S&W Cat, recently held their Middle East Distributors Conference in Cyprus. Taking part were delegates from all regional countries, along with company executives and Gallahue's Middle East advertising agency, Mennac. The conference included a review of market conditions and a number of work group sessions in which the distributors studied activities in marketing, selling and new product development to support their businesses. The conference, which takes place every three years, was hosted by Gallahue Regional Marketing Director Mike Whitehead (standing, right), in the presence of Mike Pieper, general export manager for Gallahue (seated, fourth-right).

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Seminar on "Ways of Teaching Pronunciation of English," conducted by Director of the British Council Centre Chris Nelson at the British Council — 5:30 p.m.

★ Lecture entitled "The Origin of the Red of the Ring" by Dr. Pierre Bihai at ACOR — 7 p.m.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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The hidden Iraqi bomb

IT IS high time that the U.S. administration and American strategists looked straight at the effects of the continuing international sanctions against Iraq on the 18 million Iraqi people rather than glancing sideways in their efforts to maintain what they see as pressure on the Iraqi leadership. Enough and more has been said and established that it is the mostly poor sector of the Iraqi people — mostly children and women — who are bearing the brunt of the suffering caused by shortages of food and medicine and the skyrocketing prices in the Iraqi market. If the American-led Western coalition against Iraq has not realised this truth by now, then obviously nothing that anyone says will make it realise it either.

While it may or may not be in the interest of the U.S. and the West to continue to apply the so-called pressure on Baghdad regardless of the motivation — it is definitely not in the interest of the American-represented West to further alienate the people of Iraq; and that appears to be the precise result of the sanctions.

At this point in time, riding high on the waves of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. may not have the time to grasp the realities on the ground. And the so-called friends of the United States in the Middle East are misleading the Bush Administration if they are advising Washington to continue the stranglehold on the Iraqi people with the hope that sooner or later they themselves might rise up and act against their government and help topple the Iraqi leadership.

In the unique history of the Iraqi people, who represent one of the oldest civilisations in the Middle East, it has never been recorded that an external force succeeded in bringing about political changes; it has always been internal forces that had been behind changes in that country. Strangely enough, it is these same internal forces which are being punished and weakened by the sanctions. Soon Washington will have in its hands a people seething with rage at American actions which caused misery, suffering, agony and the death of hundreds of thousands and probably would deal an irreversible blow to the potential of its young generation.

Today's leaders will go away tomorrow, whether in the West or in the East, but the Iraqi wounds may not heal and the Americans of tomorrow may be pulled up to account for today's actions of their government. We doubt whether that is what the great American nation wants.

Don't let anyone hear it differently: It is wishful to think that Iraq will fade away with a wave of the hand. Iraq and its people are here to stay and no matter what one does they will continue to stay, and, perhaps, hit back so fiercely one day at the world, everyone in the West and East included, that the international community will have no choice to accept it meekly. The sooner the world understands and acts accordingly the better for everyone around.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS most likely now that there will be an early general election in Israel in the wake of the weakening of the present coalition government has lost the support of two political parties, said Al Dababir daily Sunday. With the elections in the offing, it is reasonable to say that most debates on the domestic front will centre over the election campaigns and the race to win the elections, with the Middle East peace process placed on the shelf. Of course, such developments in Israel are bound to cause harm to the peace process that began in Madrid and continued in Washington, but this is exactly what the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had wanted, said the paper. It said that Mr. Shamir had resorted to creating confusion in his government so as to divert world public attention from Israel's intransigent stand at the peace talks and before the world community can force the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace. The paper said the internal political developments in Israel were no more than a manoeuvre designed to abort the peace process, with the Israeli leaders resorting to the pretext that they are too involved in internal affairs to pursue the peace process. What is hoped, said the paper, is to see the Arab parties to the peace process continuing their coordination efforts and unifying their ranks, and that the Americans take a more positive stand by exercising pressure on the future government of Israel to force it to comply with the requirements of a just peace.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily Sunday called on the employers of various businesses to heed the lesson of the electricity workers' threat to strike, calling on these employers to be fair in the treatment of their employees. Ahmad Dhiban said that the public was delighted over the settlement of the labour dispute between some 2200 workers and the management of the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) for the simple reason that people saw that the workers were unjustly treated by their employers. Skilled workers, who offer priceless service to the nation, receive between JD 50 and JD 100 in monthly salaries which is clearly not enough to make both ends meet. The writer said that under the umbrella of democracy, workers have the right to air their grievances in the way they want and they have the right to find different means to struggle to improve their pay and living conditions. In this case, they lobbied the government, the Federation of the Jordanian Labour Unions, appealed to the public, through media, and finally threatened to go on a strike to have their injustices addressed, said the writer. What is to be learnt by the employers from this process, said Dhiban, is the fact that their workers' complaints could be justified and they ought to listen and reason with them before matters get out of hand, with detrimental consequences to the business itself and the country as a whole.

Weekly Political Pulse

Side by side — let the mind rule the heart

I have always had the gut feeling that not much will emerge from the current peace process as reflected in the ongoing peace talks between Israel and the Arab parties. This pessimism was reinforced during my most recent visit to Canada where I had access to people who, I believe, are privy to the inner most thoughts of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on the extent to which Israel would be prepared to go in order to give peace in the Middle East a chance. The message that I got clearly calls for believing every word that Mr. Shamir has been saying about trading only peace for peace that would not incorporate Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war. Tel Aviv, I was assured, is bent on frustrating every effort that would call for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, including Jerusalem of course, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights; Israel is bent also on maintaining its military grip on these territories. I suspect that such an assessment is also familiar to the most enlightened among us. As for the average person on the street, such a grim view has always been part of his or her political psyche and nothing was seen or heard that would make them change their minds. So if this is the bottom line, why are the concerned Arab parties bothering to send their negotiators to the peace parleys? The answer could lie in the desperate hope that somehow the seemingly permanent Israeli decision to cede no territory to the Arab side may erode in the process of negotiations and become amenable to making territorial concessions that are not being

envisaged as of now.

What could save the day for the Arab side, some circles close to the Israeli thinking are saying, is the manner in which the Palestinian side, in particular, and the Arab governments, in general, would conduct their negotiations and contacts with the Israeli side. Israel, they maintain, is fully aware that the international cards are stacked heavily against the Arab heightened expectations and that the Arab state of affairs is neither now nor in the immediate future favourable to their cause demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. As for establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it is also being excluded as a viable option, under any scenario, that the Israelis would accept. So what do the Israelis want the Arab side to do in order to salvage the situation in part for their cause and ultimately their bargaining posture?

According to the so-called friends of Israel that I have spoken too lately, they would like the Arab side to amend its style of negotiations with Israel in such a way as to incorporate the construction of bridges with the Israelis as of now and prior to plunging into substantive talks. By that they mean the confidence-building measures between the two sides need to be initiated by the Arab side because it is they that need successful peace talks and not Israel. They are advocating such an approach even when

Israel is provoking the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general in every conceivable way and almost on daily basis. In short, the Arabs are called upon to become "quakers" even though there are many Israeli provocations and hostile acts against the Arabs, especially in the occupied territories. By turning their struggle for a confrontational one into a peaceful one, the Israeli public opinion could make a sudden turn towards reconciliation and peaceful coexistence with their Arab neighbours, including withdrawal from occupied Arab territories at the end of the day even though such a withdrawal is completely stricken out of their minds at this time. One can easily rebut such calls for "Gandhism" by pointing out that the Arabs are so much emotionally and politically overcharged that it would be unthinkable to ask them to turn peaceful and put all their faith in the friendly persuasion style of contacts and negotiations with the other side. It seems to me that neither culturally nor politically the Arab side is prepared to turn the other cheek at this late hour. It would take superhuman submission to yield to such a logic, so why ask the Arabs to take the initiative in confidence-building by engaging as of now in personal contacts with the Israelis and make them feel more comfortable with the idea of living peacefully side by side with the Arabs. I would have to agree that such a stance is indeed a risky business and fraught with untold dangers. Yet, to give a final judgment on such a very difficult issue requires not an emotional reaction but a solemn consideration.

By Waleed Sadi

Bush campaigns with message to America's disgruntled: 'I care'

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is bringing a simple message to disgruntled American voters in a reelection campaign overshadowed by economic hard times and plummeting poll ratings.

"I care," he says, over and over, across the land, launching another bid to keep the White House.

He uttered those words repeatedly to farmers in Kansas, potential voters in New Hampshire and black leaders in Georgia in outings from Monday to Friday.

The slogan is his acknowledgement that public anger over persistent economic hardship is deeper than he had realised.

It goes along with a widespread view that Mr. Bush, America's internationally-minded president, cares more about global issues than the woes of average U.S. citizens.

Mr. Bush is also emphasising his leadership of America's 1991 Gulf war victory to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

This tested theme is emerging again as he charges into the presidential primary election season, which starts on Feb. 18 in New Hampshire.

That triumph pushed his popularity to record 90 per cent heights a year ago and once made him look politically invincible.

But all that has been obliterated by the recession and Mr. Bush, no longer able to shrug off the criticism that domestic woes bore him, has changed tack out



on the stump.

In Atlanta on Friday to honour slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, he spoke of his concern for the struggle of black Americans against bigotry, drug use, crime, unemployment and other pressures destroying family values.

He announced a programme to reorganise federal job training

and did so in a building being renovated by black youths in a job-training programme.

His black hosts were cordial but also sceptical.

The Rev. Bernice King, daughter of the assassinated Martin Luther King, concluded a memorial ceremony with a prayer that pointed up many of the woes Mr. Bush had hoped to gloss

over.

"Lord have mercy on us," she said, "for how dare we celebrate in the midst of a recession when nobody is sure whether their job is secure... when 40 million Americans are without health care?"

As his motorcade moved through a black neighbourhood, a young man shouted "we want

jobs, we need money."

It also remains to be seen whether his "I care" campaign will sell among hard-pressed voters of any race, in light of entrenched suspicions that he is a wealthy elitist interested in ordinary people only during election years.

He has already drawn some savage reactions from critics.

"All that is patently unau-

thentic about him was on display (during a campaign trip): his mock machismo, his partisan posturing, his ersatz fellowship with the average Joe," wrote Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen, a liberal.

"Message: I care," he said — as if caring is something other than an emotion. This president is a phony, and everyone knows it," Mr. Cohen wrote.

Such broadsides are not likely to deter the president.

A recent Gallup Poll released by USA Today newspaper and CNN television found Mr. Bush's support among Americans had slipped to 46 per cent — lowest of his presidency and well below the 90 per cent he enjoyed a year ago after the Gulf war.

Like other recent polls, this one showed widespread dissatisfaction with his handling of the recession-bound economy. Only 24 per cent backed him on that issue.

The tumble of popularity comes as Mr. Bush is about to announce formally his intention to seek the Republican nomination for a second four-year term. He will be challenged in the New Hampshire primary by Conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, who has been using an "America first" theme in a state that has seen its economy fall as unemployment rises.

Although Mr. Bush seems assured of the nomination, a strong showing by Mr. Buchanan would embarrass the president and weaken him against his eventual Democratic challenger in the November election.

N. African fundamentalism surges

By Alexandre Bucciatti

CAIRO — A publisher and a writer were each sentenced to eight years in prison by a Cairo high court on Dec. 26 for disseminating words considered to be blasphemous to Islam, damaging to society's moral values and tending to incite people to impiety.

The writer was Ala'a Ahmad, a tax department employee and liberal thinker. Mohammad Madbuli is one of Egypt's leading publishers. In March 1990, he published an essay entitled "A Journey Inside A Man's Mind" by Ala'a Ahmad, who was jailed shortly afterwards under the emergency law. In the preface to his work, which was inspired by Voltaire ("God is the great generator supplying the tiny lamps that are human beings"), Mr. Ahmad wrote: "I am a Muslim by heritage and I would have been an atheist had my father been one."

Throughout the work — a dreamlike journey in paradise — the writer sets about religious ("a tissue of myths") and without actually naming Islam, he claims "they have dragged the East down into the depths of ignorance."

In the course of his imaginary journey, which brought down upon him the wrath of Al Azhar University (Sunni Islam's and the fundamentalists' Sorbonne), the writer meets several prophets ("God has never sent any prophet") whom he describes as impotent and dangerously imbalanced, driven by evil men. The book ends with the hero condemned to the stake by "the men of religion, society's parasites, who accuse those who want to spread

reason and logic of indulging in black magic."

The high court sentence has caused great anxiety in Egypt's intellectual community which sees it as a sign of the government's increasing tendency to give in to Islamic fundamentalist pressures. While the severity of the sentence is quite unprecedented, this is by no means the first time that Muslim extremists have succeeded in gagging free expression.

Back in the days of Awwar Al Sadat, they succeeded in seizing a new edition of one of the most original mystic works of Islamic thought, "Al Foutah Al Maseyya" ("The Mecca Illuminist"), written by the medieval Muslim thinker Ibn Al Arabi. In 1985, they managed to get the publisher of the unexpurgated version of "The Thousand And One Nights" imprisoned. This classic of Arabic literature was judged to be "pornographic and blasphemous."

In December 1988, the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz was again prevented by Al Azhar from publishing his essay "The Children Of My Neighbourhood," which was nevertheless one of the works that won him the Nobel Prize for Literature. In March 1990 the government withdrew from school textbooks a poem about an innocent flirtation between two children by the Syrian poet Nazim Qabbani. The fundamentalists judged it "immoral." And in July 1990, the writer Farag Foda was placed under house arrest following a suit filed by the sheikhs of Al Azhar University against Foda's essay "To Be Or Not To Be." Egyptian fundamentalists, who

had been losing their influence during the Gulf crisis — to the point of not taking part in the legislative elections of December 1990 and January 1991 — are beginning to take heart again after the "victory of their Algerian brothers," Sheikh Mohammad Abul Nas, the Muslim Brotherhood's supreme head, predictably hailed the victory in an open letter to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). "I beseech Allah to grant you as total a victory in the second round." And he concluded it by throwing an implicit challenge to the Egyptian government and expressing the hope that "the victory of the FIS may herald the victory of Islamic movements in all the Arab countries."

Hassan Ahmad Amin, Islamic expert and Egypt's ambassador to Algeria from 1988 to 1991, told me that "the arrival of the FIS to power in Algeria could be compared to that of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. The effects of such an event could lead to major changes in the region, particularly in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan, all the more so as the Algerians are Arabs and Sunnis."

The events in Algeria add to the danger of Muslim extremists gaining power in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. Farag Foda told me: "That will lead to increased cooperation among the governments of these countries in an effort to contain the danger." He thought the Egyptian government could be tempted to "increase pressure on Muslim maximalists while at the same time going easy on moderate fundamentalists."

So far the Egyptian government has refrained from expressing any reaction, a clear sign that it is worried. — Le Monde.

Extremists on both sides battle Mideast peace process

By Marcus Elinson
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — An attack on an Israeli bus in the West Bank and the imminent breakup of Yitzhak Shamir's government illustrate the extremism that threatens the Mideast peace talks.

Tuesday's shooting, which wounded seven people, was closely intertwined with the decision by Prime Minister Shamir's two hard-line allies later in the week to quit the coalition and wipe out his majority in parliament.

The political upheaval augurs an early Israeli election that is bound to put the U.S.-brokered peace talks on hold at least until the summer. For the hard-liners, that's a triumph.

Those who claimed responsibility for the shooting, the PLO's radical Popular Front and the Hizbollah-Palestine, believe peace talks will lead to autonomy — limited self-rule on Israeli terms — and kill Palestinian hopes of nationhood.

Conversely, a Palestinian state is precisely what Israeli hard-liners fear will emerge from the talks.

"The peace process is taking its toll and there are interested parties that want to derail it," said Hanna Simora, editor of the Palestinian daily Al Fajr.

"We see autonomy as a corridor to a Palestinian state, and certain Arab groups see it as a betrayal of their objectives," said Israel Harel, a prominent figure among the 112,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Violence has increased sharply in the occupied territories since

the peace talks opened in Madrid in October. They moved to Washington later.

Armed Palestinian attacks used to be relatively rare — stones and firebombs were the preferred weapons against Israelis. Since October, however, four Israelis have been shot to death in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jewish settlers used to rely on the army for protection. Now they say they have lost faith in the army's ability, and have begun retaining directly, smashing windows and car headlights in rampages through Arab villages.

The government has tried to placate the settlers by channeling more money their way, as well as cracking down on Palestinians with curfews, arrests and expulsion orders against 12 alleged militants.

Such actions were not enough to prevent the Tehiya (Renaissance) and Moledet (Homeland) parties from leaving Mr. Shamir's coalition.

Israel's autonomy plan calls for five years of self-rule, after which the final status of the territories would be negotiated. Palestinians would be free to claim statehood and Israel to claim sovereignty over the territory.

Benny Katzover, a settler leader, said his people would resist autonomy from the outset.

Mr. Harel and the Palestinian editor, agreed in separate interviews that the peace process was unstoppable and most people on both sides favoured it.

Mr. Simora said a call by radicals and Muslim fundamentalists last week for a general strike to protest the peace talks went largely unheeded. He also said

the Israeli pro-peace constituency was growing, even inside Mr. Shamir's Likud Bloc.

"I believe the message of Madrid is slowly sinking in all quarters," he said.

He sees economic hardship as a catalyst. The Palestinians have lost the PLO and oil-state money that cushioned them until the Gulf war, while Israel may be denied the U.S. aid it needs to house and create jobs for 350,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The election result depends on a variety of unknowns, critical among them the \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees for the immigrant programme. With the guarantees, Mr. Shamir can ease the recession and unemployment that hurt his election prospects.

A poll published Friday in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth reiterated what has been obvious for years: the Israeli public is divided, with a slight edge for Likud and the ultra nationalists.

The survey of 506 people by the Dahaf agency forecast 59 seats in the 120-seat parliament for the Likud-led right, and at most 56 for the Labour-led left, leaving the balance of power, as ever, in the hands of religious parties.

No margin of error was given, but it is usually four per cent on a poll of this size.

Based on those figures, Mr. Shamir could form another government, but would depend again on the very parties that are bringing down this coalition.

Labour might also be able to form a coalition. But neither side would command the broad support needed for a fateful decision like territorial compromise.

Shamir loses parliament majority

(Continued from page 1)

Before the cabinet session Mr. Shamir had vowed to carry on the U.S.-brokered peace talks, which have gone slowly since starting in Madrid in October and moving to Washington in December. They are due to resume in February. The election campaign, meanwhile, is already in full swing.

In a widely watched television news programme Friday night, Mr. Shamir and Labour leader Shimon Peres spelled out their agendas, focusing on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which will be the key campaign issue.

Mr. Shamir, aware that the peace talks are supported by the vast majority of Israelis, promised he would try to keep the negotiations going despite Israel's political uncertainties.

But he also assured his right-wing constituency that after a five-year period of Palestinian autonomy, he would insist on Israeli sovereignty over the occupied lands.

Mr. Peres called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories after an interim autonomy period, and for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians.

The 76-year-old Shamir, who has been prime minister three times, is widely expected to lead Likud into the next elections.

Mr. Peres, 68, still faces a battle for the number one slot in Labour against his longtime rival, former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, 69.

Both Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin, who heads the party's hawkish wing, have served as prime ministers. Party primaries are scheduled for Feb. 19.

Arafat: Arabs to review Moscow stand

(Continued from page 1)

Amr Musa, who paid a surprise visit to Damascus on Saturday, said Egypt would have further meetings with Syria before the talks open on Jan. 28.

President Assad told Mr. Musa Saturday that Syria stood by its policy of not attending the talks.

"President Assad pointed (out) during the meeting that Israel was now raising peace more than any time before," his spokesman Joubran Kourieh told Reuters.

"He also reiterated Syria's known position on the multilateral talks."

The multilateral talks will cover secondary issues such as arms control, water resources, refugees and economic development.

"Syria will not go to the multilateral talks because Israel is resisting peace and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories," one Syrian official said later.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told Voice of Lebanon radio station his government would not attend the Moscow talks either.

He said he had briefed the Russian ambassador to Lebanon on what he termed Israel's policies to isolate the Arab states which he said would lead to the failure of any peace talks.

On his return to Egypt, Mr. Musa played down his apparent failure to persuade Syria to attend.

"We have understood the Syrian position and expressed our opinion and will continue bilateral meetings until the negotiations begin," he told reporters at Cairo airport.

But he confirmed that Egypt would attend the talks.

Diplomats in Cairo expressed little surprise at Syria's stand. "They have said all along they wouldn't go unless there was progress in the bilateral," said one Western diplomat.

"There was very little Egypt could do to change that."

Dr. Shaath said Saturday that Palestinian negotiators in the

Middle East peace talks reflect the views of not only the Palestinian people but also the PLO leadership.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks "is 100 per cent united with its people and its leadership" and, he added, to Palestinians that leadership is the PLO.

"There's absolutely no chance of creating a wedge," Dr. Shaath said in an address to a conference of Arab-Americans in Washington.

Dr. Shaath has been a behind-the-scenes adviser to the Palestinian delegation during four days of Arab-Israeli talks last week but until Saturday kept a low profile so as not to antagonise the Israelis.

U.S. law prohibits PLO members from entering the country, but Dr. Shaath was allowed to come to Washington under a waiver signed by Secretary of State James Baker. He was not scheduled to meet with any U.S. officials.

Dr. Shaath said there "is a fair chance, a small chance" for the peace talks to succeed, but he urged the United States to resume a stronger effort and again be "a driving force" behind the talks.

President Bush and Mr. Baker should be "given credit" for "trying to get the process going... but they will bear the full responsibility if it fails," Dr. Shaath said.

He outlined a number of conditions he said would enhance the chances of success, urging the Bush administration to use its leverage on a future decision on the loan guarantees to Israel to force an end to the expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The expansion of the settlements to house Soviet Jewish immigrants "is the single greatest obstacle" to the peace process, Dr. Shaath said.

He also included among the conditions that the United States resume a dialogue with the PLO, telling the audience, "you cannot keep hiding the sun with your fingers."

The following article, written by British Prime Minister John Major is reprinted from the Observer of London.

TWENTY years ago, the world's nations met in Stockholm for the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment. This made us aware of the common threat to our shared environment. We have come a long way since then, but we have a long way still to go.

This year I will lead the United Kingdom team at an even more momentous meeting. More than 160 nations will be represented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio De Janeiro in June and that is an encouraging sign of intent.

I am doing everything I can to encourage the leaders of all the other nations, including those from the European Community and the Commonwealth, to join. We now know that environmental problems cannot be solved in isolation from each other, nor can they be successfully solved by nations or regions acting on their own. We also know that economic development and environmental quality are interdependent. But not all of the fears we had then have turned out to be well-founded: there have been gains as well as losses on the environmental balance sheet.

To give our children the same opportunities we ourselves inherited requires us to create a sustainable society — one that can meet its own needs without prejudicing the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

I believe that UNCED marks

the opening of a new phase in the environment debate. In this phase the emphasis will be on solutions rather than problems, on action rather than words. We must make significant progress in three main areas.

First, in the creation of new international legal agreements to deal with immediately urgent problems. The most important, and most difficult, of these agreements is a convention on climate change. I am convinced that, for all the remaining uncertainties, the science is sufficiently clear that we must now put in place an international framework that will allow us to address this most global of problems in an effective and systematic way.

I hope that we will also be able to agree a convention to protect the planet's great diversity of plant and animal habitats, and adopt a declaration on the protection of forests to provide the foundation for a future convention on this increasingly important issue.

Second, I hope we will agree upon a comprehensive programme for the twenty-first century, Agenda 21, to achieve sustainable development. This should set out the sensible and practical actions that can be taken by international organisations, national governments and others.

Third, I hope we will set up an Earth Charter. The 26 principles agreed at the Stockholm Conference have provided a firm basis for the development of environmental law over the past 20 years. They should now be clarified and strengthened to provide an equally durable basis for the next two

decades. These are challenging goals. It would be foolish to suppose that reaching agreement among so many nations, each with pressing concerns of its own, will be easy or painless. Nevertheless, the problems we face are global problems and they require a global response in which each nation plays its full part.

I recognise that it is essential that the wealthier countries, which have played a principal part in creating many of the most pressing environmental problems, must give a lead. Rich nations must provide clear evidence that they are willing to put their own environmental house in order and offer support to those who need it to play their part, especially the poorer nations.

We have begun to put our house in order. Action has been taken on specific matters such as eliminating our use of ozone-depleting chemicals, reducing our emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides, setting a conditional target for reducing our carbon dioxide emissions and committing over £28 billion to improving water quality. Perhaps even more important, we have also established new and powerful machinery of government to promote sustainable development.

We have made available real support to those poorer countries seeking to promote their economic and social development in a manner that respects the environment. We pay particular attention to environmental implications in all our aid activities and have committed resources separate from our aid programme for the creation of the global environment facility.

The burden of debt carried by the poorest countries constrains their sustainable development. That is why, as chancellor, I took the lead in proposing enhanced debt relief for those poorest, most heavily indebted countries undertaking economic reforms. Agreement was reached in mid-December to grant such terms to Nicaragua and Benin. The way is now open to extend this treatment to more of the poorest countries. We are also taking a leading role in encouraging the private sector to play its full part in helping the poorer countries, particularly in finding new ways to improve trading conditions and thus facilitate technology trans-

A world fit for our children to live in

No conference, no matter how successful, solves the problems. We did not save the planet at Stockholm in 1972. We will not do so in Rio in 1992. But the Stockholm Conference did set in motion a powerful political tide that created the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), led to the establishment of environmental ministries in most countries and created a huge body of new national and international environmental law. As a result, our air and water are cleaner, nature is better protected and our use of resources is more efficient.

Thus, what happens after UN-

CED is perhaps even more important than what is agreed there. Some priorities are already emerging. We must concentrate on improving the strength and efficiency of the existing international mechanisms for managing our environment, especially UNEP. We need to strengthen the capacity of the global environmental facility to help the poorest countries meet their obligations under global environmental agreements. Governments which undertake Agenda 21 commitments must report regularly and publicly on their progress towards fulfilling them, as we ourselves now do.

I do not doubt the scale and

urgency of the environmental and development challenges we will face as the planet's population doubles. This will happen within the career span of the youngest entrants to today's workforce. It is the responsibility of the current generation to ensure that their life chances are as good as those my generation has been fortunate enough to enjoy.

Never has the world environment been a more important subject for discussion and action at the highest levels than now. The challenges to us in protecting our children's inheritance are immense and they must be tackled globally and with a political will to succeed.

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Shamir's man 'sought to undermine' Bush

(Continued from page 1)

opportunity" of Mr. Bush wanting popularity to lobby Republican leaders to press for the loan guarantees.

"The method of action by the Jewish community greatly influences the legislators and heads of election campaigns and their position influences the president's," it was quoted as saying. Mr. Burg said he leaked the

plans because he disagreed with such strategies, Yedioth reported.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Mr. Burg said the action would be like an American diplomat in Israel supporting a revolt in Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc by party rival David Levy.

"What would Israeli public opinion said about a situation like this?" he asked.

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Algerian soldier killed in attack

(Continued from page 1)

cautioned their followers to refrain from provoking the military, fearing a crackdown. There is speculation that the party will be banned. Army presence in the

capital has been stepped up.

Among those picked up in the latest sweep were members of the governing committee, or majlis, and some men who won parliamentary seats in first round voting.

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McEnroe wins again at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Number one Stefan Edberg celebrated his 26th birthday with a place in the Australian Open quarterfinals but the toast Sunday were for the old lion John McEnroe.

The veteran McEnroe, 32, battled scorching heat to beat Spanish 13th seed Emilio Sanchez in a titanic five sets, 7-5, 7-6 4-6 2-6 8-6, in the fourth round.

McEnroe, who defeated second seed Boris Becker in straight sets who days ago, somehow conjured up even greater drama on centre court by saving three matchpoints and needing six of his own to win the match.

At the end, he embraced Sanchez across the net, threw his arms up to acknowledge a standing ovation, walked from the court arm-in-arm with his opponent and theatrically collapsed on his back by the umpire's chair, mentally and physically spent.

While his game against Becker had been touched with the old McEnroe genius, it was a match of guts and grit against Sanchez for a place in the last eight.

From two sets up, Sanchez battled back in the 51-degree-Celsius heat to make it two sets all.

But the unseeded McEnroe called on some hidden reserves to break Sanchez's serve in the second game of the last set to race 4-1 ahead before the Spaniard pulled back to 4-4.

Two questionable line calls, one a Sanchez ace on matchpoint at 5-4 to the American, might once have prompted McEnroe to explode.

But he paused, gritted his teeth, dropped the next game and, at 6-5 to Sanchez, saved three matchpoints on the Spaniard's serve.

"I was happy with myself, I had gone so far that even though I knew the ball was out (on the ace) ... I figured I still had the chance to win the game so I didn't want to get negative," McEnroe said after the match.

"I also did not have the energy," he added.

McEnroe took the next game after two remarkable mishits by Sanchez and his first double fault, then made it 7-6 with a beautiful backhand passing shot.

He finally wrapped up the match after four hours 41 minutes with a forehand passing shot down the line after Sanchez had saved two more matchpoints.

Sanchez could only marvel at McEnroe and later admitted that his ace had been out.

"I never thought I could lose it (after saving three matchpoints). I thought the match was in my



John McEnroe

hands," he said.

"If he plays like he did today, it is great for the sport. Usually he gets very angry, today he was really concentrated even on the bad calls," he added.

McEnroe, the oldest man in the singles tournament, said he had got greater satisfaction beating Becker but was more than happy with his impeccable behaviour and his form.

"I try to mix it up better and I certainly feel over the years you learn from your mistakes and that's the biggest thing," he said.

McEnroe will now play South African Wayne Ferreira who won through to his first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a four-set win over 15th seeded American David Wheaton.

"He's a young kid, he doesn't know the word fear right now and hopefully he will start to feel it. It's a big match for both of us," McEnroe said.

It will be McEnroe's first Grand Slam quarterfinal since the U.S. Open in 1990 when he lost in the semifinal after another five-set quarterfinal thriller with Sanchez.

McEnroe's second win over the Spaniard came exactly two years to the day since he left the Australian Open in disgrace after

being thrown out far swearing at officials in a fourth-round match.

The rest was mundane on the tournament's seventh day with Edberg grinding out a straight sets win over Andrei Chesnokov and number five seed Ivan Lendl despatching Italy's unseeded Omar Camporese, also in three sets.

Edberg will meet Lendl in the quarterfinals and said the match would be his first real test since a lengthy lay-off to recover from knee and wrist injuries.

"I am really enjoying being out there and that's very important. I'm progressing according to plan," he said.

In the women's singles, number one Monica Seles and third seed Gabriela Sabatini won through to the quarterfinals, though the Yugoslav teenager dropped her first set of the open in an unconvincing victory over determined Georgian Leila Meskhi.

Seles's win set up a repeat of last year's quarterfinal against rising Anke Huber of Germany who knocked out sixth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia in a gripping three sets after losing the first set and trailing 4-1 in the last.

Argentina's Sabatini, 21, beat Bulgarian 10th seed Katerina Maleeva 6-1 7-5 to go through for a quarterfinal confrontation with 15-year-old American Jennifer Capriati.

Capriati had a harder-than-expected match against compatriot Zina Garrison, the 11th seed, winning 6-4 6-4.

Seles, affected by a swirling wind and the heat one the number one court, was not happy with her game.

"I was not going for my shots, I was not attacking," Seles said after winning 6-4 4-6 6-2 in one hour 53 minutes.

Jordan's Davis Cup team prepares to face Malaysia

By Aileen Baunayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In just over a week's time the Jordanian men's national tennis team will travel to the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur where they will play the Malaysian national team in the first round of the 1992 Davis Cup.

Representing Jordan will be national champion Hani Al Ali, runner-up Imad Abu Hamda, third ranked Laith Al Azzouni and doubles champion Saleh Bushnaq, who will team up with Ali for the doubles match.

At home, all four players are champions in their own right. But playing more experienced Asian teams like Malaysia will not be easy. Moreover, the Davis Cup does not bring happy memories to any of them.

Jordan has played in the Davis Cup three times, losing to Kuwait 3-2 in 1989, to Malaysia 5-0 in 1990 and to Pakistan 5-0 in 1991. Nevertheless, all four players are determined to do their best to achieve better results this time.

The Jordan Times met the national team and their coach after a practice session at the Sports Palace Court in Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

Coach Youssef Al Oreibi, who has been in charge of the national team since last summer, seemed quite optimistic and hopeful, especially when he compared the team's readiness and all-round fitness to the 1991 Davis Cup team. "We've been training hard for the past couple of months, and I think we have achieved a considerable improvement," he said.

"Playing the Malaysians will be no easy task. They've beaten us 5-0 previously. But I think our national team is in better shape nowadays. The players lacked a vital element — physical fitness. We've worked on that part a lot. I can say there's a minimum of 50 per cent improvement since the last Davis Cup matches," he added.

The youngest member of the

team, 14-year-old Laith Al Azzouni, who will be representing Jordan for the first time in the Davis Cup, said: "It's the first time I participate in such an international tournament. It's a big challenge, but I feel optimistic."

Ali, who has been the national champion for the past 10 years, echoed the more experienced view, as he has represented Jordan in all past Davis Cup tournaments.

In a post-practice statement to the Jordan Times, Ali spoke candidly and said: "We are nowhere close to being prepared for such an international tournament. To achieve a good result a team should be physically and mentally fit. I don't want to sound pessimistic, but I honestly think that we have not done our homework."

"I will do my utmost. But I think that by this time we should have learned to avert the mistakes and shortcomings that we always face. No one is to blame, but the fact is we could have prepared better."

A point Ali stressed was the false image with which the local press often tries to portray our national teams.

"Sometimes they make us sound over-ready and predict that we are bound to win, and when we lose the sports fans and everyone blames us because they have different and over-optimistic expectations."

"The press should always report the actual state of things, rather than make everything sound nice and then blame the players for not achieving what everyone hoped for."

Jordan's No. 2 player, Abu Hamda, who played against Pakistan in last year's Davis Cup seemed anxious to confront the Malaysians.

"We have very good coaches now, and I think we have improved a lot since last year," he said.

Abu Hamda, who has been busy with his medical studies at the University of Jordan in the

past months, is now concentrating on his training and says "by the time we play we will be ready. Malaysia is a good team, but we have also improved a lot. I think we will do OK."

Bushnaq, who with Ali is Jordan's doubles champion and played in last year's Davis Cup, said: "We are training hard and play against our coaches. I think there's much more coordination and cohesion in our team now, which is very important in doubles matches."

The national team began training at the Sports Palace court only this past week, with very little time allocated for them. Prior to training at the indoor court, the team practised regularly at the federation's courts.

Assisting Oreibi in training is the Iraqi men's tennis champion Ali Hussein Kazem, who was recently appointed as a tennis coach at Al Hussein Youth City.

After playing a set against Ali, Kazem said: "The Malaysian team is not to be underestimated, as they are more experienced. The Jordanian team, and Hani in particular, has improved greatly, but the team probably lacks competition with other national teams."

Team members agree that they would have benefited if they had played a few matches in preparation for the Davis Cup. To this end the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) has invited the Lebanese men's national team to play in Amman. The Lebanese team has accepted the invitation and is due to arrive in Amman on Jan. 21.

The visiting team will play their Jordanian counterparts in three singles matches Wednesday, two doubles and one singles match Thursday, and three singles and one doubles match Friday.

The matches will be played at the JTF courts or the (indoor) Sports Palace court depending on weather conditions.

Leeds draws but stays on top

LONDON (R) — Leeds remained one point ahead of Manchester United at the top of the English first division as both sides came from behind to draw 1-1.

Crystal Palace, the only team to beat Leeds this season when they won 1-0 at home in October, took the lead through England midfielder Geoff Thomas in the 17th minute.

But the leaders hit back through defender Chris Fairclough after 32 minutes.

Manchester United fell behind to a 10th minute penalty by Tom Johnson — his 12th goal of the season — after Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel had fouled striker Kevin Bartlett.

United also hit their equaliser from the penalty spot, substitute defender Clayton Blackmore converting in the 70th minute

after a foul on midfielder Paul Ince.

Third-placed Liverpool, nine points adrift of Leeds, came from behind to win 3-2 at Oldham.

In Scotland, Rangers opened a two-point lead at the top of the premier division with a 2-0 home win over Motherwell as Hearts crashed to a second successive defeat, 2-1 at Airdrie.

Tough-tackling Notts County blunted Manchester United's bid to take over at the top from Leeds, who they have bundled out of both cup competitions this month.

United had to reshuffle their defence at halftime when they sent on Blackmore for injured Captain Steve Bruce. Leeds, who lost striker Lee Chapman through injury in the F.A. Cup defeat by United Wednesday, took time to

settle and it was no surprise when Palace went ahead.

But Leeds were in control in the second half and had several chances to go ahead, notably when Rod Wallace's 76th minute shot from a centre by England defender Tony Dango came back off the underside of the crossbar.

Neil Adams headed Oldham ahead against Liverpool in the fourth minute. But Steve McManaman equalised 13 minutes later and Welsh international striker Dean Saunders made it 2-1 with his 18th goal of the season three minutes before the break.

In the 73rd minute former England midfielder Michael Thomas stretched Liverpool's lead when he scored his first goal for the Merseyside club in eight games since his move from Arsenal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As the sun enters Aquarius people seem restless and somewhat discontent and unless a lot of self-control is exercised promised offerings fail to materialise. Avoid those acting unpleasant.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An older person of different background or ideas from yours is the best person to consult for gaining your future goals but avoid those in power.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Confine yourself to whatever standing obligations you have and arrange to get them in back of you in as organized a manner as possible.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An outside associate you have known for a long while is now in a position to fill you in on the information you desire for a joint venture.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A new approach at doing your usual duties could bring some problems with a partner who otherwise is willing to go through with plans already made.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You best make out well today by holding yourself to pleasures already found to give the enjoyment you like and avoid dull duties you must do.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now find that matters at your own residence can be more easily and efficiently attended to

than if you cry to pursue some new recreation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get rid of those communications you have put off and especially those to go at a distance and steer clear of any disagreements at your residence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Concentrate upon handling material obligations and needs claiming your attention and don't get caught in long winded conversations by a friend using up your precious time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into the intimate and private activities that interest you and avoid getting excited by a disagreement between a business person and associates.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can quietly devise a campaign of action for the future that can extend your activities far beyond present boundaries but don't bring personal desires into the open.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Demanding friends should be avoided today and especially if they can cost you a pretty penny while private desires can be built up, to your gain.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Seek outside worldly activities as the best way to get whatever you want accomplished today and don't get pressured by an older person about a financial matter.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I've decided what I'm going to be when I grow up. I'm going to be a child!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOYUM

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GRUFIE

NOYCOT



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

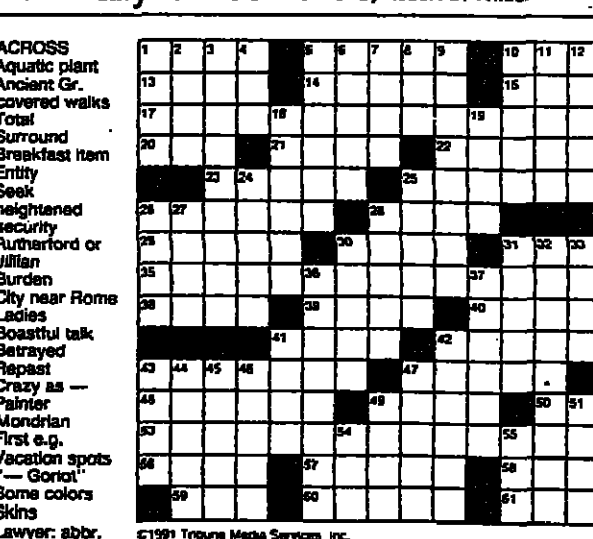
Print answer here: IN OF

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ROBOT PRUNE SYSTEM MUFFIN

Answer: You can impress people favorably by letting them do this—IMPRESS YOU

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



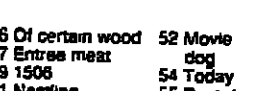
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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GOING FOR A TOP AT DUPLICATE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A Q 9
♦ A K 6 4 3
♣ 10 3 2

WEST
♠ A J 9 4 2
♥ 7 6
♦ 10 5 2
♣ 8 7 4

EAST
♠ 10 8 6
♥ J 8 5 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ A 6 5

SOUTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ Q J 8
♣ K Q J 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
Of the 10 original Life Masters named by the American Contract Bridge League in 1936, a year before it's official founding, only one still survives—Sam Fry Jr. of New York City. A skilled rubber-bridge player and feared opponent in team contests, Fry also demonstrated remarkable skills at match-point play in the early days of duplicate. This deal is from the Masters Pairs championship of 1934.

The bidding is textbook even by today's standards. North-South were using a 16-18 point range for their no-trump opening bids, so one

diamond was automatic. The jump response showed a balanced hand of 13-15 points, and North looked no further than the no-trump game.

Had this deal cropped up at rubber bridge, it would never have come to anyone's attention. Declarer would have cashed out nine tricks—one spade, three hearts and five diamonds—the cards would have been tossed in and the next hand dealt. But this was duplicate, and Fry was acutely aware of the importance of overtricks, even at the risk of the contract.

The queen of spades was played from dummy, and it held the trick. If spades were 4-4, or if West held the ace of clubs, the contract was safe. Indeed, overtricks were guaranteed if West held the missing black ace simply by going after clubs. The only danger was if spades were 3-3 and East held the ace of clubs. Nevertheless, declarer decided the risk of immediately tackling the clubs was worth it because of one additional factor.

At trick two declarer led the ten of clubs from dummy. Coming so early in the hand, East did not realize it was imperative to rise with the ace and revert to spades, so that declarer followed low. With an overtrick in the bag, declarer did not further tempt the fates. South cashed out for 10 tricks and a top score.

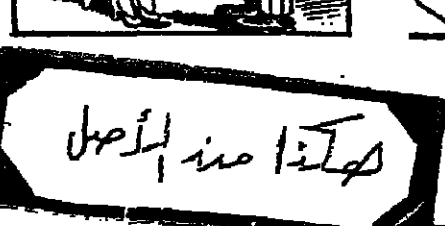
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Financial Markets
Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 13 — January 17, 1992)

The foreign exchange market witnessed a phenomenal week of wide exchange rate gyrations. The dollar closed at a high of 1.6235 marks, 128.55 yen and 1.7525 dollars to the pound sterling before retreating Friday after the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan intervened in the market selling dollars for yen. The U.S. unit finished the week with mixed results, having risen marginally against the mark, while slipping in the opposite direction against the pound and dropping by 2.13 per cent against the yen.

After the dollar's unexpected sharp rally the previous Friday, caution prevailed among traders Monday as a number of considerations hinged in the background. On the technical side, traders opted for a wait and see attitude, until the dollar breached critical support or resistant levels. On the fundamental side, market participants were still anxious over the rumours that a number of European Countries planned to seek a "dollar correction" at the next G-7 meeting. The dollar, thus, traded marginally lower, closing at its lowest level of the week against European currencies at 1.5780 marks and 1.7985 dollars to the pound sterling.

The U.S. unit rebounded against European currencies Tuesday, while slipping against the yen, under the cumulative effect of a string of factors. The catalyst, however, was a decline in European interest rates, which came amidst a growing consensus that European rates have already peaked. Fears from a strike in the German steel industry harmed the mark, while rumours and speculations also played a positive role in pushing the dollar higher. The dollar's rise followed a brief dip earlier, upon the release of December's U.S. retail data, showing a drop of 0.4 per cent and a revision of November's figures to a drop of 0.5 per cent instead of a 0.3 per cent rise.

Wednesday witnessed another technical dollar surge, taking it to a high of 1.6355 marks during the day, as short-covering pushed the U.S. unit through resistance at 1.6250 marks. Observers said that the rally was triggered by a jump in U.S. stock prices and the on-going expectations of lower European interest rates. Most observers and analysts, however, were still adamant about the dollar's rise, which they felt was far premature, given that a serious U.S. economic recovery was not expected before mid 1992.

Thursday took the dollar slightly lower, as many traders turned cautious after a week of dollar gains. Rumours and speculations, although still vibrant, were mixed for the U.S. currency. U.S. economic data were of little impact, as consumer prices for December climbed by 0.3 per cent.

The dollar plunged decisively in New York Friday after joint intervention by the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan. The intervention came at a time when many traders were already nervous about the short term dollar direction. Earlier that day, the dollar had jumped to 1.6350 marks on a sharp drop in December's U.S. trade deficit to \$3.57 billion, its lowest since 1983. But the U.S. unit soon retreated when a closer examination of the trade figures showed that the drop was accounted for by a 5.5 per cent drop in imports, a further sign of a weak U.S. economy. A wave of pre-weekend profit taking ensued, taking the dollar below support at 1.6075 marks, before the two central banks intervened.

Expectations for this week remain mixed, as many market participants are unsure about the direction of exchange rates after the central banks' intervention.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	10/1/92	17/1/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7885	1.7960	0.42
Deutsche Mark	1.5845	1.5920	0.47
Swiss Franc	1.4128	1.4065	0.45
French Franc	5.4075	5.4310	0.43
Japanese Yen	127.10	124.45	2.13

USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	10/1/92	17/1/92	10/1/92	17/1/92
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.30	4.31	4.00	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.44	10.37	10.62	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.25	9.18	9.43	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.65	7.62	7.65	7.31
French Franc	9.85	9.56	9.68	9.43
Japanese Yen	5.31	4.90	5.37	4.84

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 million dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.676	.678
Sterling Pound	1.2150	1.2211
Deutsche Mark	.4250	.4271
Swiss Franc	.4809	.4833
French Franc	.1247	.1253
Japanese Yen	.5439	.5466
Dutch Guilder	.3775	.3794
Swedish Krona	.1150	.1156
Italian Lira	.0564	.0567
Belgian Franc	.02060	.02070

Per 100

Egyptian trade delegation leaves to ex-Soviet republics

Mubarak stops planned rise in price of gas

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has personally stopped a planned rise in the cost of domestic gas. Egypt's Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banbi told a parliamentary committee.

Al Banbi's newspaper reported Sunday that the minister, appearing before the industry committee of the People's Assembly Saturday, said Mr. Mubarak had intervened to cancel a price increase planned for the beginning of January.

Mr. Banbi's office confirmed the report but gave no details. A bottle of gas for domestic use costs 2.50 Egyptian pounds on the local market (75 cents), whereas it costs eight pounds (\$2.4) to produce, Mr. Banbi said.

Removing subsidies on energy and other items is a key part of an economic reform package Egypt agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and international creditors last May.

Meanwhile, a high-level Egyptian delegation left for the Commonwealth of Independent States Sunday to try and salvage trade bonds between Cairo and the ex-Soviet Union and look for business in the newly-independent republics.

Fundamental problems exist. The ex-Soviet Union faltered on

a \$700 million barter deal with Egypt last year as political chaos mounted there. Russian sources say with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the republics are strapped for foreign currency and do not want to continue with the barter deal.

Egypt, trying to limit foreign currency expenditure, is still owed about \$300 million worth of Soviet goods from the last two years and wants to forge a similar barter deal.

Officials said Russia has vowed to make up for the deficit and then end the barter protocol. "We must get in now. We can't wait around until they say there is no room for us," said one senior businessman who asked not to be named and who has exported cotton goods to the Soviet Union for the past 27 years.

So far, Egypt's only known trade with the new commonwealth is a six-month barter trade deal signed in December with Russia worth \$429 million, businessmen say.

The Egyptian delegation is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri and groups the ministers of electricity, economy and industry and 16 businessmen mainly from the private sector.

Mr. Ganzouri said in statement before departure: "Egypt

attaches great importance to the future of relations between Egypt and the new commonwealth, and to keeping the privileged position of Egyptian exports in the Russian market."

Businessmen said they did not plan to focus on the old barter deal but would explore future trade options with individual republics.

"We are going to find out about the future. We are going to see if the republics and Russia will set up a body for trade with Egypt or trade will be done on a one-to-one basis," said one trade official.

The delegation will visit Russia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Armenia.

Egypt, businessmen and diplomats say, benefitted from the old protocol because it saved on much needed foreign currency.

Its main exports to the Soviet Union were cotton, textiles, essential oils, perfumes, shoes, household chemicals and furniture and in return it got coal, timber, pig iron, fertilisers and machinery.

Russian sources said Egypt needed the new commonwealth market as an outlet because its goods sometimes did not pass quality control in Western markets.

Turkish businessmen await action on economy plan

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish businessmen welcomed the government's anti-inflation package Sunday, but said it remained to be seen if it would be rigorously carried out.

"It looks as if we're about to start a new period," said banker Ibrahim Beril. "But let's wait for the action."

One leading Istanbul industrialist questioned whether Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's two-month-old coalition government was not promising more than could be achieved.

"There are discrepancies between the inflation and deficit targets," Alarko Holding chairman Isahak Alaton said. "How are they going to finance the deficit without worsening inflation?" Bankers said attacking inflation could only succeed if the government met a declared goal of cutting public borrowing to 8.8 per cent of gross national product from 12.6 per cent in 1991.

They said her hardest task would be to tackle state firms which last year accounted for more than half the budget deficit. Mr. Alaton dismissed the plan to turn the state enterprises into holding companies as wishful thinking.

"Most of them are worth more dead than alive, they must be shut down," he said. Taking the axe to state companies, which provide 600,000 jobs and owe a total of roughly \$15 billion, will test the coalition's will to risk the potential political price.

Turkey's new government Saturday revealed a package to stabilise the economy by lowering inflation, restructuring state enterprises, and developing capital and money markets.

"This package is not a series of pledges. We will put it into implementation starting from Monday," Tansu Ciller, state minister in charge of the economy, told a news conference.

She said the package was mainly aimed at lowering inflation, boosting production, improving unequal income distribution and integrating with the world economy.

"The first target is to lower the chronic inflation. But the decline must be permanent," Ms. Ciller said.

The package targets 42 per cent annual consumer price inflation in 1992, after 71.1 per cent last year. The 1992 draft budget announced Friday targeted a 52 per cent gross national product (GNP) deficit.

The 208 trillion lira (\$38 billion) budget sees growth of 5.5 per cent, up from an estimated two per cent in 1991, and a virtually unchanged 32 trillion lira (\$5.8 billion) deficit.

Ms. Ciller said the ratio of public borrowing to GNP would fall to 8.8 per cent this year from 12.6 per cent in 1991.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's coalition has blamed public deficits as the major cause of

inflation.

Ms. Ciller said the government would offer investors incentives worth a total 4.1 trillion lira (\$736 million) to boost production, including interest and energy subsidies, premiums and tax exemptions.

"We will determine locomotive sectors such as the food sector which will also increase employment," Ms. Ciller said.

She said the government would appropriate free land for agro-industrial investment and supply cheap energy.

Investment in less-developed regions like the southeast, scene of a seven-year Kurdish separatist insurgency, will be exempted from import taxes.

State companies, which employ some 600,000 people, will be restructured into holdings. The enterprises had total debt of 81.1 trillion lira (\$15 billion) at end-1991.

"We will bring in a new financial system and increase the competition... the aim of the financial reform will be to reduce credit and fund costs and develop new financial instruments and institutions like venture capital," Ms. Ciller said.

Ms. Ciller said measures on exports and taxation and the central bank monetary programme would be unveiled later this month.

The government is expected to scrap some tax exemptions and accelerate tax collection. It will also increase some taxes such as real estate levies and withholding taxes on treasury bills.

IEA predicts international oil demand to hit record in 1992

PARIS (R) — The world's rising thirst for oil will hit a record 66.8 million barrels per day (b/d) this year but growth in demand is still stuck in a sluggish trend begun in 1990, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said.

In its monthly oil market report, the Paris-based oil watchdog for industrialised countries said output would rise only 500,000 b/d this year, the largest annual increase since the 1.1 million b/d growth between 1988 and 1989.

This year the growth will depend on the higher consumption in the 24-member countries of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which the IEA says will use 500,000 b/d more this year.

Most of the growth will be supplied by North America, which is still awaiting an upturn in its economic performance.

Despite the stronger demand, forecast prices are near 11-month lows, at a time when seasonal demand is expected to justify higher prices. The North Sea Brent crude price, in international benchmark, was around \$18 a barrel this week.

The price performance is even less satisfactory for oil producers. In real terms, with inflation stripped out, values are back at mid-1980s, levels when Saudi Arabia's drive to regain market share took the price into single figures per barrel.

The uncertainties on the supply side this year range from the timing of Iraq's comeback as an oil exporter to the former Soviet Union's ability to maintain export volumes.

The IEA says Russian exports will probably average 1.8 million b/d this year, down from 2.1 million in 1991, as the state modifies its export licensing system and other regulations related to the liberalisation of its oil sector. The return of Iraq to the oil export market depends largely on

the political will in both Baghdad and the United Nations Security Council.

But Iraqi and U.N. working parties have set about establishing fair and practical ways for the exports to start flowing from what was OPEC's second largest exporter before the Gulf crisis started.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meantime was to try to balance supply with world demand and a ministerial meeting set for Feb. 12 in Geneva is seen as crucial to the stability of the oil market.

The IEA foresees the calls on oil from OPEC and companies' own inventories falling to 22.7 million b/d in the second quarter from 24.6 million b/d in the first.

The 13 OPEC members pumped 24.2 million b/d in December, the highest since March 1990, the IEA said. Last week the average price for a basket of seven crudes was \$16.57 a barrel, well below OPEC's \$21 dollar reference price.

U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Henson Moore predicted that crude oil prices increase gradually as economies in recession-hit countries start to recover.

"We know oil prices are soft because demand in the world is low. We predict oil prices will go up as soon as demand goes up, as economies in recession recover," he told a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

His remarks last week that the United States appreciated Saudi Arabia's resistance to pressure by other OPEC members to cut output to prop up sagging oil prices led to speculation that Washington and Riyadh has an understanding to keep oil prices low to help the ailing U.S. economy out of recession.

"What I was trying to convey to the press (in Riyadh) was (that) Saudi Arabia and other producers are interested in the long-term commercial rela-

tionships with customers," Moore said.

"We have not discussed rent oil prices with any oil company or any oil minister which we visited (in the Gulf)," he said. "We have no control on prices nor do we wish to control the deputy secretary added.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has rejected calls by Algeria and other OPEC members to hold an emergency meeting aimed at defending group's reference price of \$25 a barrel by cutting production (continues on page 2).

Lower demand in a maelstrom with oil has pushed prices to around \$16.

Mr. Moore said he had discussed current oil production levels with the Gulf states, had inquired about their future output levels, with a view to increasing trade links.

"It is my belief that any country we have met with is going to set its prices and production levels based on what is in its interests," he said.

Mr. Moore started his tour in Kuwait and visited Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the U.A.E. and Yemen.

He said almost all Gulf states have crude oil and gas export projects and the United States wanted to increase its trade relations with them by supplying more of its oil technology equipment.

Mr. Moore said he raised the issue of leasing oil for the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) in his talks with the chiefs of the Gulf states, but so there has been no serious discussions with them.

The United States has raised target SPR oil volume to billion barrels from the current target level of 750 million, Moore added. It already has billion barrels.

Debt-chased Britons remain shy of borrowing

LONDON (R) — Consumers in Britain remain reluctant to take on fresh debt to finance spending, according to official figures that cast new doubt on the pace of the nation's recovery from economic recession.

The Conservative government has been banking on an upturn in consumer spending to help the economy recover ahead of an election which must be held by July. The latest figures indicated a patchy revival.

They showed that new credit advanced to consumers in November was a seasonally adjusted \$3.74 billion (\$6.73 billion), down from \$4 billion (\$7.22 billion) in October.

Net consumer credit, the change in consumer credit outstanding, fell by \$23 million (\$60 million) in November. It was the fourth month in a row that the net total had fallen.

"The figures show consumers are not willing to borrow on credit cards and are intent on avoiding financial risk," said Richard Jeffrey, director of economics at brokers Hoare Govett. The statistics were accompanied in final British retail sales

figures for November which showed a 1.3 per cent rise against a provisional estimate of 1.2 per cent.

Britons went on a borrowing binge in the late 1980s and their heavy spending on imports sent the trade deficit soaring.

But they have been chastened by high interest payments and the spectre of losing their jobs as unemployment spirals upwards in the recession-hit economy.

"Today's figures on consumer credit show the consumer is not the driving force behind an economic recovery," said Nick Parsons at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in London. "There is little wonder treasury sources are predicting a downward revision to (economic) growth forecasts when the chancellor believes his budget in March," he said.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

(Finance Minister) Norn Lamont has forecast that the economy will grow 2.25 per cent in 1992. But most economists expect growth to be just 1.4 per cent.

Mr. Parsons said the month in net consumer credit disturbing.

"This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline — a total unprecedented development since the figures began to be compiled in 1986," he said.

In the three-month to November net consumer credit fell £216 million (\$390 million), or 1.3 per cent, compared with a rise of £183 million (\$330 million) in the three months to August.

Other official figures show that Britain's annual inflation rate rose to 4.5 per cent in December from 4.3 per cent in November.

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Gamsakhurdia allies abandon village; fighting reported

ZUGDIDI, Georgia (Agencies) — Forces loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia abandoned one of their key strongholds Sunday after the ruling Military Council ordered them to leave, a Gamsakhurdia supporter said Sunday.

Clashes between the political rivals was reported in two other Georgian towns and there were reports of wounded fighters.

Dozens of Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men fled the railroad junction of Samtredia, about 300 kilometres west of Tbilisi, and went to six Abkhazi, 25 kilometres to the west.

Samtredia, until Saturday, was one of several cities still controlled by Mr. Gamsakhurdia supporters.

The provisional government seized control of the town "without firing a single shot," Acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said Saturday.

After the withdrawal of Mr. Gamsakhurdia's forces, there were reports of clashes with security forces sent by the Military Council to the Black Sea port of Poti and Abkhazi, according to all. Rene Kalandia, a spokesman for the National Disobedience Committee in Zugdidi, which supports Mr. Gamsakhurdia.

"There were exchanges of fire, but now it's quiet," Mr. Kalandia said. "We fought them back

at Abkhazi and so far we are also in control of Poti."

Several people were wounded in the exchanges at Abkhazi and government forces destroyed an armoured personnel carrier and a home-made armoured truck used by Mr. Gamsakhurdia's backers.

In Samtredia, officials said Military Council troops walked the streets with megaphones and ordered Gamsakhurdia loyalists to leave.

The president's supporters then came under fire at a bridge midway between Samtredia and Abkhazi, Mr. Kalandia said.

Zugdidi, Mr. Gamsakhurdia's hometown, appeared tense early Sunday as local television broadcast an appeal for people to arm themselves and come to city hall to protect the city and nearby Abkhazi.

Many came, and some left for Abkhazi by truck.

At one point Sunday morning about 2,000 people were gathered in front of city hall, shouting "Zviad, Zviad," and demanding information or weapons.

But, the resistance did not appear to be well organised. Some two dozen men, some with double-barrelled hunting rifles and others with Kalashnikov automatic rifles, stood outside city hall.

A home-made armoured truck was parked in front of the building.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia himself has

not been seen in public since his return to Georgia Thursday, although officials keep insisting he is in Georgian territory.

Armed opponents routed Mr. Gamsakhurdia from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi on Jan. 6 after a month of bloody fighting which left at least 113 people dead. The opposition coalition that ousted him charged that Mr. Gamsakhurdia, elected in May, had become a dictator and was persecuting opponents.

The military Council's armed forces commander, Tengiz Kitovani, claimed Saturday that Mr. Gamsakhurdia could leave Georgia again Sunday.

The South Ossetia autonomous region of Georgia, meanwhile, held a referendum Sunday with voters being asked to vote "yes" or "no" on independence from Georgia and unification with Russia, the TASS News Agency said.

Moscow Radio reported that Georgia's Military Council released a statement calling the referendum "an outright attempt to violate the territorial integrity of a sovereign state."

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Georgia's new rulers appeared to be closing on Mr. Gamsakhurdia and predicted he might be about to abandon a bid to fight his way back to power.

"The National Guard is taking

full control of Sukhumi Airport," sources close to the ruling Military Council told journalists Sunday. "Gamsakhurdia and his supporters know they're being given time to use it to leave of their own free will."

Mr. Gamsakhurdia arrived back in Georgia from Armenian exile via Sukhumi Airport Thursday. He launched his campaign by addressing a rally in the town of Zugdidi but his whereabouts now are unknown.

Kitovani told local journalists he controlled much of the region of western Georgia near the Black Sea where Mr. Gamsakhurdia began mustering forces last week for an armed march on Tbilisi.

Mr. Kitovani said the ousted president would be given three days to leave the country.

But communications in the republic have all but broken down over recent days and the Military Council's declaration of victory could still prove premature.

The snow-swept road between Tbilisi and Kutaisi, where Mr. Kitovani's National Guard has set up its operational headquarters, was heavily guarded Sunday by gunmen loyal to the council.

A Reuters journalist was stopped at six checkpoints along the road, which was also patrolled by armoured cars. All vehicles entering Tbilisi, were searched.

Tensions grow in Croatia over Serb enclaves

BELGRADE (R) — Tensions increased in newly-independent Croatia Sunday after three Yugoslav soldiers died in weekend fighting and hardline Serbian leaders rejected Croatian sovereignty over Serb-controlled enclaves.

In a serious breach of a two-week-old ceasefire, the federal soldiers were shot dead Saturday in an ambush near the Adriatic town of Zadar, the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said.

Croatian radio reported scattered weekend fighting but said the two sides had used a telephone hotline to end shooting around Nova Gradiska in the western Slavonia region that had strained the truce, in force since Jan. 3.

If the ceasefire between the Yugoslav army and Croatia's National Guard takes firm hold, the United Nations has said it may send a 10,000-strong peace-keeping force into disputed areas of the former Yugoslav Republic.

About 45 U.N. military liaison officers, sent to shore up the U.N.-brokered ceasefire, took up their positions on both sides of the front at the weekend. Five more were due to arrive Sunday.

But tensions grew as Serbian hardliners who have taken control of armed enclaves in Croatia during the fighting said Croatia's writ no longer ran on their territory.

Croatia was recognised as independent by the European Community on Jan. 15 after six months of fighting against Serbian irregulars and the federal army.

"The peoples in the Serb Krajinas will not, at the cost of their lives, remain in the state of Croatia," Goran Hadzic, a rebel Serbian leader, said referring to the Serbian strongholds inside the new state.

"We accept the ethnic borders of Croatia but those borders are without the Serb Krajinas," he said in comments to the Montenegro daily newspaper, Pobjeda.

Croatia has lost about one-third of its territory in the conflict and a top Serbian leader has said U.N. deployment in disputed areas would effectively mean Croatia had lost this land.

Rejecting this, Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic said Saturday his country would seek guarantees for the borders it had when independence came into effect.

"It is our absolute principle that the borders of Croatia are, in their existing conditions, sacred and inviolable," he told a news conference in Zagreb.

The leader of the Serbian stronghold of Krajina meanwhile stood by his earlier refusal to allow U.N. peacekeeping forces on his territory or to disarm Serbian irregular forces there — key parts of the U.N. plan.

Milan Babic, Prime Minister of Krajina, said: "The people of Krajina can not accept being blamed for the conflict and disarmed while those who provoked the conflict, Croatia and its armed forces, remain armed."

Major worried over CIS nuclear weapons

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major expressed concern Sunday over a spread of nuclear weapons in the new republics of the collapsed Soviet Union and said Western technology would be needed to help dismantle them.

Mr. Major said in an interview on British television that the nuclear issue would be central to his talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin who visits London on Jan. 30.

"It is a worry that those nuclear weapons are proliferating around the individual republics and we must watch that very carefully," Mr. Major told TV-AM's Frost On Sunday programme.

The prime minister and Mr. Yeltsin will travel together to New York on Jan. 31 for a United Nations Security Council meeting to discuss the problem of nuclear weapons in the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"Now-proliferation of nuclear weapons and increasing disarmament ... is one of the reasons I called the special extraordinary U.N. Security meeting," he said.

There was "the almost certain need for Western technology to help with the dismantling of those weapons," Mr. Major said.

But it was not yet clear whether the republics with nuclear weapons other than Russia — Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine — would deliver their nuclear weapons to Russia to have them dismantled or whether they would insist on dismantling

them on their own territory. "Those are matters as yet undetermined and it is a worry but I see no need for fear," Mr. Major said.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev pledged after talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Saturday that he would rid his republic of nuclear weapons and said he was committed to preventing the spread of nuclear arms and technology.

Mr. Major said the United States and European Community leaders had told Russian leaders of worries in the West that former Soviet nuclear scientists could turn to Third World countries for jobs.

"We must make sure that the nuclear expertise that exists in those individual republics is not purchased by other people in the Middle East or elsewhere."

Turning to the embattled Russian economy, major said Britain would back Moscow's application to join the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"(Yeltsin) has applied and he will become a full member of the IMF and the IMF will provide a package of advice and assistance which will help Russia get its economy in better shape than it is at the present time," he said.

Mr. Nazarbayev, talking to reporters after meeting with Mr. Hurd said he was ready to sign all the treaties on nuclear arms the Soviet Union had signed, which included the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Burma sends 75,000 troops to Bangladesh border

DHAKA (R) — Burma has deployed more than 75,000 troops along its border with Bangladesh and intensified its persecution of Muslims to send thousands more fleeing across the frontier, Bangladesh defence sources said Sunday.

They said Rangoon's military rulers had poured more than 30,000 extra soldiers into positions along the 270 kilometres border in the last few days, raising the total to more than 75,000.

State-run Radio Bangladesh said Sunday that more than 60,000 Burmese Muslims, known as Rohingyas, had now fled to south-eastern Bangladesh, seriously straining the poor country's resources.

The government has begun setting up refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar district and giving food and medical help.

"Bangladesh may seek for international aid for the refugees, who have escaped military barbarity but are facing serious difficulties," one official in Chittagong said.

He said more than 50 of them, mostly children had died of exposure and other were suffering from cold, hunger and disease.

Military intelligence sources said Burmese troops had been carrying out a campaign of "annihilation" in the border state of Arakan, the only Muslim-majority state in the mainly Buddhist country.

They said soldiers were taking thousands of Muslim youths to labour camps and raping women and had stopped food and medical supplies.

The pro-government Dainik Dinkal newspaper said Sunday that Burmese soldiers had set up

32 new army camps along the border and 17 more in nearby towns in recent weeks.

It said they had built new airstrips in the Akyab, Mawngdaw and Buthidaung areas and installed radio towers.

The border tension began after Burmese soldiers attacked a camp of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles on Dec. 21, killing one soldier and wounding three. Dhaka ordered a military alert in response.

Rangoon later said the attack was a mistake but two meetings between the two countries' border forces have failed to resolve the stand-off. Dhaka is hoping for a third meeting this month.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Minister Rahnun last week described the Burmese mobilisation as an internal security measure.

But he said Bangladesh would fight to the last drop of blood if necessary to preserve its independence.

Relations between Dhaka and Rangoon worsened last April when thousands of Rohingyas started fleeing into south-eastern Bangladesh to escape the Burmese army.

Burma believes the Rohingyas rebels fighting for an independent homeland in Arakan get most of their support from Burmese refugees in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh border officials said Sunday there was no sign Burma was willing to restore border peace or stop the refugee influx.

"Instead, they are carrying out well-planned military operations to evict the Muslim population and drive them across the border at gunpoint," one official told reporters.

The Golden Globe victory for Buggy, for instance, could help the Beatty vehicle at the box office. As of last weekend, it had drawn \$30 million, a decent figure but paltry behind the \$90 million of Hook.

The Golden Globes have exhibited an uncanny ability to pre-empt the Oscars, at least in recent times. In the past eight years, the two have coincided for best picture for Dances With Wolves, Driving Miss Daisy, Rain Man, The Last Emperor, Platoon, Out of Africa, Amadeus and Terms of Endearment.

The Golden Globes frequently draw more stars than the Oscars ceremony because prospective winners abound at the beginning of the awards season and not showing up might create a bad impression.

Also, the Foreign Press Group presents its honours in two sections — drama and comedy musical — for picture and lead performances. Thus, there are 10 nominees in those lead categories instead of the Academy's five.

And awards for television also are handed out, so TV stars add to the stellar throng.

At least one Golden Globe was known before the 49th awards began — the Cecil B. DeMille Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to Robert Mitchum.

22 killed in S. Africa violence

THOKOZA, South Africa (R) — At least 22 blacks were killed in a week of political violence in South Africa, raising fears of renewed fighting after a holiday hiatus.

As migrant workers began drifting back to their single-men hostels, reports of violence started to increase again.

Residents of six townships told Reuters they had enjoyed a period of calm since before Christmas when the workers left for a break in rural areas.

Now they worry the violence

looks to be on the increase, could worsen once democracy talks resume between the white-led government, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and other political groups.

"It has been really quiet these days, but who knows it is not a period of calm before a big storm?" said Thokoza Community leader Simon Skhosana.

There was a similar lull last year, but once the hostel-dwellers returned violence erupted.

Independent monitors of the

violence that has killed more than 4,800 people since August 1990 say the scale of political unrest has dropped but suspicions still run deep.

Police said 12 men were shot dead in Natal province townships last week.

In addition, four people were killed in townships around Johannesburg, four died during a clash between two opposing groups in a platinum mine at Thabazimbi in Transvaal province and two commuters were killed when they were off moving trains.

Prospects of quick solution to Haiti's crisis fade

WASHINGTON (R) — Prospects of a quick solution to Haiti's crisis faded when the post-coup rulers boycotted talks with exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide and he insisted on the removal of the "criminal" who ousted him.

"A golden opportunity has been lost," Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the Organisation of American States (OAS), told journalists after he held six hours of talks with Mr. Aristide, who was ousted in a coup and forced into exile on Sept. 30.

Mr. Baena told journalists the OAS, which has clamped a trade embargo on Haiti to press for Mr. Aristide's reinstatement, will consider convening a special foreign ministers' meeting of the 34-nation regional body to study the next steps.

Prime Minister-Designate Rene Theodore and the presidents of the Senate, Dejean Benizaire, and the House, Alexandre Medard, failed to show up for the meeting convened by Mr. Baena at OAS headquarters.

"We regret their absence very much," Mr. Baena said.

For his part, Mr. Aristide insisted that no way out of the crisis was possible if coup leader General Raoul Cedras remained as head of the army.

"Not even with father God as prime minister ... could democracy return to Haiti" unless General Cedras was thrown out of the country or in jail, the 38-year-old Catholic priest said.

An estimated 1,500 people were killed in the coup.

Poverty spreading rapidly to Asian cities — U.N.

MANILA (R) — Poverty is spreading in Asian cities with migration from the countryside triggering a rapid growth of shanty towns, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says in a report.

Asia will have five of the world's 10 largest cities by the year 2000 and its urban population is expected to rise from 700 million to 1.2 billion, said the report issued before a UNDP regional meeting.

Development experts from 30 Asian nations are to attend the four-day conference opening in Manila Monday.

"Widespread poverty, which is an affront to development progress, is still an important characteristic of the Asia-Pacific region," the UNDP said.

"Poverty is being increasingly urbanised with the movement of poor people from rural to urban areas."

It said 800 million people, three-quarters of the world's poor, live in absolute poverty in the region.

"Slum settlements are growing rapidly without access to most municipal facilities such as piped water, sewerage connections and electricity," it said.

Up to 600 million people in South Asian countries do not have access to safe water and sanitation. Literacy rates are also lower than in any other part of the world, falling below 20 per cent for women in several countries," the UNDP said.

It urged member governments to explore ways of increasing cooperation with non-governmental organisations because the state could not solve the problem of poverty by itself.

The 30 countries meeting in Manila are seeking more support from rich nations to fight the spread of poverty in Asia.

They will try to draw up a plan covering 1992-96 to combat poverty, environmental degradation and contain the spread of AIDS in Asia, said Sebastian Zacharia, chief of the UNDP's regional programme division.

Officials said the UNDP would use up to \$500 million at first to fund regional programmes to spur development projects in the continent.

The three-day meeting will also look at attempts by Laos, Vietnam and North Korea to reform their centrally planned economies.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Miyazawa faces probe on scandals

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, back from a trying trip to South Korea, faces a still more difficult test at home as parliament turns the spotlight on his role in a raging political funding scandal. Mr. Miyazawa, tainted by a huge shares-for-favours scandal three years ago, must now fend off new charges of possible misconduct when parliament opens Friday, after the arrest last week of a former close aide in the latest bribery scam. "The prime minister will have to fend off attacks from conservatives at home for apologising to the Koreans," said an aide accompanying Mr. Miyazawa home from South Korea Saturday. "On top of that, opposition party leaders are threatening to probe the entire Miyazawa faction (of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party) for any links to the new scandal," the aide added.

Kohl links aid to CIS to arms control

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the republics of the former Soviet Union that they would continue to receive Western economic aid only if they convince the West that they are honouring international arms control agreements. In an interview published Sunday, Mr. Kohl for the first time spelled out a link between aid for the Commonwealth of Independent States and assurances that agreements signed by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would be honoured. "In our talks on Western aid, we must make clear to those responsible in the former Soviet republics that trust is a precondition for help," he told the Frankfurt Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. "This means ... that nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons should be fully under control and that production does not continue in a possible uncontrolled manner."

Lithuania to get KGB files

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin will turn KGB files on last year's military crackdown in Lithuania over to the Baltic republic's president, the TASS News Agency said Saturday. Mr. Yeltsin met with Vytautas Landsbergis Friday at the Kremlin and agreed to turn over papers relating to the Soviet military attack on the television tower in Vilnius. Fourteen people died in last January's attack in the Lithuanian capital. "This document will help Lithuanian law enforcement agencies interrogate witnesses and those guilty of crimes perpetrated during the events in Vilnius," TASS said. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Landsbergis also agreed to establish diplomatic relations in the near future and signed a communique on trade and economic cooperation.

More boat people found in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Four more Chinese boat people were found in northwestern Australia's vast outback Sunday, taking to 47 the number rescued since they trekked into the desert after abandoning their shipwrecked boat. Police said air and land searches were continuing for the nine still missing in the region, where temperatures can soar to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit). A police spokesman said the three men and one woman found early Sunday were in fairly good condition. "They were carrying some food and some water." He said they were found about 30 kilometres west of King Edward River Station. The first of the boat people stumbled into the station Thursday, sparking off the search for the remainder. The group became shipwrecked on crocodile-infested mud flats at Swift Bay in Montague Sound on Dec. 31.

Kim's son may succeed in N. Korea

TOKYO (R) — North Korea's state radio has indicated that President Kim Il-Sung, who turns 80 in April, may soon hand over power to his son Kim Jong-Il, Japanese newspapers reported Sunday. A Radio Pyongyang commentary quoted Mr. Jong-Il, 49, as saying recently: "The work and ideology of the leader who pioneered the revolutionary path will be protected and succeeded by a loyal successor." The radio, in its Saturday commentary, added: "The dear leader comrade Kim Jong-Il has given a creative, scientific answer to the principal question on the final victory of the Communist revolution by revealing the correctness of the completion and succession of the revolutionary work of the working class."

COLUMN

Indian drivers face bumpy ride

NEW DELHI (R) — Ninety-eight per cent of India's major roads are too bumpy to meet international standards, the Press Trust of India news agency said. It quoted scientist P.K. Nanda of the Road Research Institute as saying that a survey of India's 32,000 kilometres of national highway, found only two per cent up to standard. Nanda said India's highways have an average "roughness index" of 7,000 mm per km against an international standard of 2,000 mm for comfortable driving. In the United States, roads are resurfaced when the index exceeds 2,500. "Even freshly laid roads in India have a roughness above this value," Nanda said.

U.K. holds out against national lottery

LONDON (R) — An attempt to open the way for a national lottery in Britain failed in parliament Friday, but its supporters were confident of victory in the future. Conservative MP Ivan Lawrence said a lottery could raise about £3 billion (\$5 billion), one third of which would fund the arts, sports and other fields. Opponents said it was unnecessary in Britain which already had one of the highest expenditures in Europe on gambling and would undermine existing systems like the football pools. Britain and Albania are the only European states without a national lottery. Lawrence's bill, which would have created legal conditions for a lottery to be set up, gained a majority of 84-35 but needed to muster 100 votes in favour to go forward. But a government minister backed a lottery in principle and announced immediate moves to investigate claims by organisations including the pools and charities that they would lose out. "We are several steps nearer the implementation of a national lottery as a result of this debate," Mr. Lawrence said.

Woman fined for topless stroll

GUELPH, Ontario (R) — A Canadian woman who strolled without a top on a hot day to support her claim that women should have the same right as men to take off their shirts was fined \$75 dollars (\$65 for indecent exposure. "The essence of the matter here is that anyone who thinks male breasts and female breasts are the same thing is not living in the real world," Judge Bruce Payne told Gwen Jacob, a 20-year-old University of Guelph student of women's studies. Jacob strolled topless for four hours over two days last July in temperatures of 33 Celsius (90 Fahrenheit) before public complaints led to her arrest. The judge, passing sentence, said he had considered an absolute discharge but objected to Ms. Jacob's promise during her trial last year that she would take more topless strolls to prove her point, the Canadian Press News Agency reported. Ms. Jacob's lawyer had argued her rights to sexual equality under the Charter of Rights had been violated. But a prosecutor said women's breasts, unlike men's can be sexually provocative.

Boss sentenced for pestering switchboard girl

LILLE, France (R) — A boss who sexually harassed a 21-year-old switchboard operator received a three-month suspended sentence in a landmark case in French legal history, lawyers said. The head of a commercial firm in the northern city of Lille lost his job and was ordered to pay 11,000 francs (\$2,000) for repeatedly pestering the young woman. The boss, who is receiving psychiatric treatment, admitted the harassment. The court heard that he had stroked the woman's breasts, thighs and hair despite her requests for him to stop. French Secretary of State for Women's Rights Veronique Neiertz is due to unveil a bill later this year to outlaw sexual harassment in the workplace for the first time. "In our country there is sometimes a tradition for sexual innuendo which means women who complain about this kind of behaviour are often not taken seriously," said Isabelle Lapeyrie, lawyer for the Union of French Women. A poll carried out by the Louis Harris Institute recently found that 21 per cent of French employees had either been victims or had witnessed sexual harassment in the workplace.